THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 44.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXV. NUMBER 26.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, JULY 1, 1878.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 24TH JUNE.

MR. MARSDEN, Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, in his last annual report, writes:

The Presidency Magistrates' Act, in my opinion, is working very satisfactorily and well. During the past year only 38 persons have been committed from the Southern Division Court to take their trial at the Sessions, and I would beg to point out that, although in a very large number of cases of prisoners convicted and sentenced by the Magistrate an appeal would lie to the High Court, in very few cases have appeals been preferred.

With reference to the bench system, the Honorary Magistrates, as a whole, appear to take great interest in their work, and many of them have evidently taken considerable pains to master the law as well as the proceedings and practice of the Police Courts. The larger number of them have been regular in their attendance, and several have expressed to me their willingness to sit at any time if they could be of assistance.

The only difficulty that has arisen under the bench system is that in important cases it is frequently impossible to conclude the case on the day on which it is commenced, and an adjournment becomes necessary: in such cases it is very inconvenient to the Honorary Magistrate to sit on a second day. This, however, as far as possible, I have endeavoured to avoid by, in several cases, referring back the case to the stipendiary Magistrate for disposal. I think the Honorary Magistrate are perfectly competent to try and dispose of ordinary cases alone; but I would suggest the expediency of their Chairman being elected for them by the chief Magistrate.

The Government has carried out the suggestion of Mr. Marsden by publishing a list of Honorary Magistrates, who are eligible to be chairmen of the Bench.

MR. JUSTICE MARKBY, who presided at the last annual distribution of diplomas and prizes to the students of the Medical College, delivered a brief address, from which we transcribe the following:

One thing, was a source of immense pleasure to him, and that was that the past and present opening of the Medical College had made him more intimately acquainted and brought him into more general contact with it, than he otherwise could have had. He had learnt to appreciate the natives as practical men. At one time, he was under the impression that the minds of the natives were better suited for making puzzles and play-things; but he had learnt from his closer acquaintance with them that their minds were both acute and practical. In the medical profession they were decidedly practical and useful. They eased pain, alleviated suffering, and preserved health. It had also taught him the great and sterling qualities of the Medical College and its tuition—a state which had been arrived at by greater energy and perseverance in overcoming difficulties than those which occurred in any other field of professional acquirements. The tuition in the Medical College had now arrived at that state of perfection, which he considered equal to any other College, no matter where situated, and he would say to those before him that its future lay in their hands. It was for them to raise still higher the fame of the College, and he felt sure that the energy would not be wanting on their part, and that the good work so well begun, and which had so greatly prospered, would not suffer at their hands."

The Indian intellect is thoroughly practical, but unfortunately the Government system of education does not give it fair play.

WE UNDERSTAND that the exceptional circumstances which rendered necessary the separate appointment of a Political Agent at Hill Tipperah having ceased to exist, with the sanction of the Secretary of State the Government of India has abolished the appointment, and made the Magistrate of Tipperah Ex-officio Political Agent with an assistant at Agurtolla. Perhaps the influence of Babu Shumbhu Chunder Mookerjea, the new Dewan of the Tipperah Raj, is being felt.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, with the approval of the Home Government, has recognised as successor to the Chiefship of Nowanaggar, in Kattywar an infant son of the present Jam's first cousin who has been selected by His Highness to supersede his own son who was conditionally accepted as the heir in 1872, but disqualified himself for the succession by subsequent misconduct. The education of the newly appointed heir is to be entrusted to the Political Agent, and he will become a student of the Rajkumar College when he is sufficiently advanced in years.

WE UNDERSTAND that Dr. Burnell of Madras is about to be relieved of his official duties for a short period, in order to enable him to resume the compilation of his catalogue of the manuscripts in the Tanjore Library—a work which is yet far from completion.

WITH A view to securing uniformity with other reports of a similar character throughout India, we understand that the Secretary of State has requested that, should no sufficient reason exist to the contrary, the reports of the Bombay and Calcutta Municipalities may be in future made up for the official, and not the calendar year.

A REVIEW of the reports received from the several Provinces of India respecting the operations carried on for the discovery and preservation of the records of ancient Sanscrit literature which was forwarded to the Secretary of State by the Government of India in February last shows that satisfactory results have attended the labors of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra in Bengal; of Mr. Griffith in the North Western Provinces; of Dr. Buhler and Dr. Kielhorn in Bombay; of the Inspector General of Education in the Central Provinces; and of Mr. Browning and Mr. Nesfield in Oudh. It is hoped that the re-distribution effected by the Government of India in the arrangements for carrying on the work will promote their efficiency and produce results commensurate with the outlay incurred on the scheme.

TUESDAY, 25TH JUNE.

REPORTS received from Cabul state that the Amir has been informed by the Russians that they propose to send an envoy of rank on a special mission to Cabul, and request that he may be suitably received. The Amir has been much disturbed by this intelligence fearing that it may bring him into trouble with the Russians—and has summoned his chiefs and councillors to the Durbar to consider how best to avoid compliance with this request. In the meantime he has sent a reply similar to that sent to the Indian Government on a like occasion, requesting that no European officer may be sent into his country, as people are wild and disorderly and the envoy might receive harm at the hands of some fanatic or evil disposed person who wished to do an injury to him (the Amir).

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION suggested to the Government of Bengal the desirableness of publishing in a volume returns of prices-current of food-grains and other agricultural produce in the districts of Bengal from the earliest possible date available. The Association wrote:

"The table of prices" is an index to the economic condition of the people, and may help thoughtful and practical persons in investigating the causes of the rise and fall of prices and thus disseminating useful thoughts on the subject. Seeing that scarcity, owing to drought, has become now more frequent than heretofore, a collection of the statistics of prices show how far the capacity of the people to meet high prices has kept pace with the rise in prices, and at what point the rise in prices may be considered to approach famine prices.

The Government of Bengal consented but said that the returns will be given from February 1874. The Association submitted again that the returns ought to go further back, at any rate from 1866, from which year they ought to be available. The Bengal Government has complied with the suggestion.

A TERRIBLE whirl-wind played havoc at Mean Wali in the Bunnu district. Among other exploits, it dried up a tank, and then penetrated into a hut, the owner of which, being apparently acquainted with the nature of his strange visitor, clung on to the thatch of the dwelling. But the ward of Æolus was not to be so baulked, and both man and thatch were lifted bodily into the air. The poor fellow dropped and was killed, causing a great sensation among the people, who thought a spirit had got loose.

AS WE HAD predicted the character of British rule in India has suffered in the estimation of the civilized world in consequence of the enactment of the Vernacular Press Act. The *New York Herald* makes the following remarks in an article entitled the "Muzzling of the Indian Press:

"The mutterings of disaffection in British India having grown louder under the pressure of a misrule that is responsible for the horrors of famine and oppressive taxation, the native press has of late given decided expression to the popular feeling. Recently there were published many extracts from what is termed the vernacular or native press of India, of which the language was in no way calculated to allay the general discontent. Notwithstanding the proclamation of the Queen's new title as Empress of India and the institution of a new Order of chivalry, whose decoration is intended for and has been conferred on female notables who have distinguished themselves for their loyalty to the Crown, and who are mainly the royal princesses and the wives and the daughters of the British nobility identified with the Indian government, the natives of Hindostan cannot see how their condition is to be ameliorated by proclamations, fireworks and ribbons. They therefore speak out their protests through the native press, and show the world that the "blessings" they are enjoying are as unreal and unsubstantial as the rule they experience is exacting and exhausting their resources. Hence the action of the Indian government, which, by the act relating to the vernacular press, the text of which is given in full below, suppresses all expression of native opinion and gives the local magistracy, who are all appointed by the Crown, the right to seize the types, presses, paper and other property of native journalists coming under the operation of this gag law. The individuals who offend against the majesty of the Empress of India are also liable to imprisonment and fine, at the option of the local government. It is declared that books, papers, &c., printed outside the limits of British India are not to be admitted to that territory except by permission of the government censors. At no time during the reign of Napoleon III, or even under the Russian or German police control of the press has a measure so extreme and so sweeping in its operation being devised for the muzzling of public opinion as this "Act for the better control of publications in Oriental languages," which has been passed at one sitting of the Viceregal Legislative Council of India, on Thursday, March 14, 1878. In the event of a war between Russia and England, the act will assist the Indian government in giving any color it pleases to the news of the day. It will be as useful in deceiving the Hindoos as in preventing, as it pretends, their deception by their own journalists. The effect of the measure will, therefore, be twofold. Over the ignorant and fanatical a temporary influence favorable to British interests will undoubtedly be exercised by the local governments, but disaffection and suspicion will be aroused in the minds of the educated natives. They will not believe the government organs because they well know that the authorities are interested in suppressing unpleasant truths. They will therefore be all the more likely to listen to the secret agents of Russia, who will not fail to supply them with information best calculated to serve Russian purposes."

Now there is no disaffection, so far as we are aware, against the British Government in India; there is of course dissatisfaction here and there, but such dissatisfaction is perfectly compatible with a full appreciation of the blessings of British rule and with profound loyalty to the British Crown. But this attempt to "muzzle" the Vernacular Press has given rise to suspicions in the minds of foreigners regarding the character of British rule and the popular feeling towards it, which are not justified by facts, and which we feel confident they would not venture to express but for this unfortunate enactment. The Government by passing the Vernacular Press Act has imitated the deluded shepherd boy, crying "wolf! wolf! wolf!" where there is no wolf!

TWO PROPOSITIONS, it is said, are before the Washington Congress, one directly and the other indirectly—for the construction of a ship canal parallel with and near the Atlantic coast capable of enabling vessels of war and bodies of men to be thrown from one point to another beyond the reach of both the vicissitudes of the sea and the interference of a hostile fleet. The chain of works to accomplish all this begins with a short canal to connect Cape Cod Bay with Long Island Sound, whence inside communication already exists as far south as the Cape Fear River by means of the Raritan and Delaware bays and canal, the Delaware and Chesapeake Canal Chesapeake Bay, Elizabeth River, and finally the sounds of North Carolina.

IN THE OPINION of the Supreme Court of the United States the Eight Hour law, so far as giving the working man any special rights or privileges, is mere waste paper. It merely says eight hours shall be considered a day's work, but the question of pay is entirely a matter of contract.

THIS is the way weather notices are given in the *New York Herald* in the following form:

"The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be lightly warmer and partly cloudy, with occasional rains. Tomorrow it will be warmer and cloudy or partly cloudy, with probable light rains.

Cannot Mr. Elliot give similar notices for publication in the morning papers?

WEDNESDAY, 26TH JUNE.

AT THE anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society the Royal Medal has been awarded to Baron F. Von. Richthogen for travel and scientific operations in China, and the Victoria Medal to Captain H. Trotter for his survey operations in Eastern, Turkestan and for his additions to the Map of Central Asia by writing his own work on the Oxus with the exploration of the Mollah and Havildar further to the west.

A MERCHANT in the columns of the *New York Herald* laments over the decadence of the American shipping. The following figures are derived from

official sources, and show the relative volume of foreign and American tonnage which entered ports of the United States :—

Fiscal Year.	*American Tonnage.*	*Foreign Tonnage.*
1840	1.576,946	131.900
1850	2.578,016	712.363
1860	5,921,285	2,353.911
1861	5,023,917	2,217.554
1862	5,117,685	2.245 278
1863	4,014,698	2 640,378
1864	3,066,434	3,471,219
1865	2.943,661	3 216 967
1866	3,372,060	4,410,424
1867	3.455,052	4,318,673
1868	3.550,550	4,495,465
1869	3,402,663	5,347,694
1876	4,711,949	12,218,365

From these figures it will be seen that while the total American tonnage has only increased 1,309,218 tons between 1869 and 1876, the foreign tonnage shows an increase of 6,870,671 tons. When it is considered that the building of one ship of 2,500 tons gives employment to over six hundred men of different trades, paying each of them on an average $500 per annum, some idea may be formed of the damage inflicted on national prosperity by the loss of the carrying trade, which is rapidly passing into the hands of the British, Norwegian and Italian shipowners. The loss also falls necessarily on the working classes as the building of 10 ships is calculated to give employment to 9,000 men, distributing among the various trades, from the miner to the engineer, a gross sum of not less than $3,000,000.

WE ARE GLAD to see that the *Civil and Military Gazette* is vigorously exposing Police vagaries in the Punjab. Our contemporary writes :

Such cases are, much more numerous than we could afford either time or space to enumerate whether we take the most prominent of them, as for instance the Amritsur Kuka butcher massacre, in which the Police nearly succeeded in getting seven innocent men hanged, or the Meer Kullun murder case of Delhi notoriety, in which the innocent victim luckily escaped and saved his neck, and the policeman most in fault saved further trouble by committing suicide—or the score of charges and cases brought against an unpopular policeman by, or at the instigation of his own hostile superior, in all of which he obtained acquittal after fair and open trial, and the Magistrate, although a native, declined to be bullied out of his own honest convictions, and to prostitute the ends of justice.

And we may here notice a recent case which occurred in a district not a thousand miles from Lahore, and in which a respectable merchant was needlessly disgraced by being placed in the lock-up, notwithstanding that ample and substantial bail was repeatedly offered. According to the story which we have heard (and we certainly have no reason to doubt its truth), the merchant was accused on obviously insufficient grounds, of possessing stolen property, his explanation in regard to which was, in due course, supported by unimpeachable testimony; he was arrested by the local thannadar, it is said, under the positive orders of the superiors of the latter, placed in the common *havalat*, and bail refused on the plea that the case was not bailable under the schedule attached to the Criminal Procedure Code. This was done on a Saturday evening with manifest intention, for as the courts were closed on Sunday, he could not be brought before them until Monday morning, and so his incarceration was secured for at least two nights and a day. On Monday morning, when placed before the Magistrate having jurisdiction, he was discharged forthwith, the Magistrate evidently deciding that the Police had not even made out a case for trial, and so discharged their victim without even calling upon him for a defence,

But the Police get *kudos* from Government!

THE PIONEER justly says that in India Fever does as much harm as, if not more than, the Famine. In 1876 in Bengal and the North-West Provinces above upwards of a million victims were registered as having succumbed to Fever (561,000 in Bengal and 495,000 in the N.-W. P.) In the North-West Provinces the mortality from this disease alone ranged as high as 16·10 per mille, a rate as high as the entire mortality of many English towns. In the Punjab matters are still worse, for in that province 351,000 persons or 20·09 per mille of the entire population, died of fever in the same period. Oudh and Bombay are a little better their respective losses being 162,000 and 220,000, or 13 per mille, while Madras heads the list with a fever mortality of 230,000 or 7·89 per mille. Yet Fever is a disease arising largely from preventible causes.

Mr. FARLEY LEITH, M. P. has presented to the House of Commons a petition of the Bombay branch of the East Indian Association, protesting against the Vernacular Press Act as a measure of an entirely retograde character, quite out of harmony with the principles on which the British Administration in India has hitherto been conducted and that it is calculated to aggravate the very mischief which it is designed to prevent.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Secretary of State has requested the Madras Government to communicate to Surgeon Major G. Bidie, the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the manner in which the collection of raw products sent from Madras for the Paris exhibition was prepared and catalogued by him. The services of Colonel I. Michael C. S. I. in co-operating with the Indian Committee of the Royal Commissioners, are also favorably commented on; while satisfaction has been repressed at the manner in which the collection of raw products has been transmitted from Bombay.

TELEGRAPHIC report from Bombay dated the 24th instant states that monsoon has burst well along the coast of Concan, Bombay, Guzerath, and Kathiwar. Also good showers fell in Southern and Central Deccan and Khandesh. Prospects in Bombay Presidency generally improved but prices remain high.

THURSDAY, 27TH JUNE.

IN HIS remarks on the report of the Conservator of Forests on the administration of the Forest Department of the Madras Presidency for the year 1876-77 the Secretary of State expresses his concern at the condition of the Madras Forests arising from the process of rapid denudation to which various causes have of late years given an impulse. The subject of Forest Conservancy in its bearing on the calamities which arise from floods and famine is deemed by the Secretary of State so serious and important that he has dealt with it at considerable length in a separate despatch to the Government of India.

THE following is from a correspondent on the N. E. Frontier.

The murder case in which a man of Mozema is alleged to have been killed by a man of Kohima was inquired into by an Inspector of the Frontier Police. When he demanded the surrender of the culprit he received the following bold but frank reply from the Perima (the chief) of the Dakhuchama clan of Kohima.

"Whom shall I give up when I am myself implicated in this alleged case of Murder? The man was not covertly killed by any single individual of my clan, but he met the fate he deserved in open war in which not less than 60 of my men were engaged. We made an attempt to set in flames the newly rebuilt village of Mozema, but being benighted in the way took shelter in a swampy ambuscade lying close by the village. Next morning we allowed 5 women of the village to go where they liked, but when we saw 3 men coming by the foot-path leading to the swamp, we at once surprised them and succeeded in getting the head of the oldest of the three as the two youngsters fled too swiftly to be overtaken by our men. Then the enemy came in numbers to fight with us, but we baffled all their attempts to injure us by opening a brisk fire over their heads. Shortly after the enemy retired to other village and we came to ours. Next day when celebrating this victory we received a Purwanah forbidding us to wage any such war in future. In the late expedition about 50 picked warriors of my clan co-operated with the British Field Force against Mozema through the orders of the late Political Officer. When peace was concluded with that village we solicited Captain Williamson to settle our dispute and he promised to do so. But when our men were returning from the expedition a party of Mozema fugitives who had taken shelter in Jatsama tried to way-lay them. They reported the matters to Captain Williamson who then left our quarrel to be settled by us. When the Chief Commissioner visited this country he held a durbar in the very centre of our village but we were never called to attend it, though we were quite eager to have a talk with him. Then he held a grand Durbar in Suchima "Ara" but we were never invited to take any part in it. We do not know what his orders are. So we have done what we are doing from time immemorial.

IN AN obituary notice of Raja Kalinarain Rai of Bhowal the *East* gives the following list of the benefactions of the lamented deceased :

Construction of the Tonghee Bridge	...	Rs.	20,000
Female ward of the Mitford Hospital	...	,,	20,000
Buckland Strand	...	,,	20,000
Famine stricken ryots of Bhowal on different occasions	...	,,	40,000
Excavating ponds and canals	...	,,	15,000
Constructing different roads and bridges	...	,,	50,000
Marriage of ryots	...	,,	20,000
Remissions of rent	...	,,	20,000

THE SAME PAPER has the following :

Babu Kalley Kissen Tagore, with that munificent liberality, for which he is celebrated, has bestowed the endowment of Rs. 10,000 on Mr. Vyse's European orphanage. Mr. Vyse is to draw the interest, amounting to Rs. 33 a month. The Commissioner, the Collector, and the Principal of the College are the trustees. It is really a gratifying sight to see the rich remember the poor. Kindness on the part of the former towards the latter heals many sorrows, and averts many evils. The truest patriotism consists in alleviating the miseries of the poor of one's own country.

All honor to Babu Kallykissen Tagore for this unceasing flow of his enlightened and discriminating charity!

WE LEARN from the above journal that Mr. Peacock succeeds Mr. Mangles as Presidency Commissioner, that Mr. Lyall becomes Commissioner of the Dacca Division, and that Mr. Bradford succeeds Mr. Lyall and becomes Magistrate of Dacca if Mr. Grimley returns to the Board in time. Mr. Peacock takes over charge on the 16th proximo.

TELEGRAPH WEATHER REPORT up to June 26th 10 A. M. Barometer rising over whole of India except Assam Behar and Madras. Easterly winds over North-West Provinces and at Lahore. Moderate rain in Bombay, Central Provinces, Bengal and Assam. Weather showery and squally in North West Provinces. Two inches rainfall at Baieully, one in Lucknow, four-tenths at Roorkee, two-tenths at Allahabad.

A CORRESPONDENT strongly protests against our remarks regarding the abolition of the rural registrarship of Bhola in the sub-division of Dukhin-Sabazpore, solely on personal grounds, but as he does not mention any facts but only deals in innuendos against the late sub-registrar, we cannot publish the letter. The same writer says :

There is great difficulty in Burrisal in obtaining Currency notes. The people are put to much inconvenience on account of this. If we go to the Treasury and ask for a Currency note the Khajanchi is sure to give us a dry and stereotyped answer that there is no note in the Treasury. But we have sometimes seen notes wrung out of the Treasury, when *batta* is given or promised. We hope the Treasury Officer will keep his eyes open.

FRIDAY, 28TH JUNE.

DR. TOWNSEND has been deputed to investigate the causes of recent mortality in the N. W. P. and Oudh. He will also collect evidence on their sanitary and medical questions stated in the instructions issued to the Famine Commission, especially the question of the food-rations administered in poor-houses.

IT IS stated that Col. A. Cadell succeeds Col. Nicolls as Secretary to the Government of Bengal, P. W. D., who takes leave shortly.

THE FAMINE has involved the Mysore State in a debt of nearly ninety lakhs. Some extensive retrenchments will be made to make up this loss. Several divisions will be doubled up for this purpose. Why does not the Government of India make similar retrenchments to recoup the loss of revenue by famine?

THE BILL introduced by the German Government to suppress summarily societies, meetings, and printed matter "having Socialistic aims in view" has been rejected by 257 to 52. Herr Lasker, who opposed the measure, said, all the world "had Socialistic aims in view," which were no other than to improve the condition of the poor classes; what should be prohibited was not the Socialistic aim, but the Socialistic method of arousing class hatred and recommending the action of the Commune.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Lonesingha :

The Mulfutgunge Moonsiff's Court in Faridpur District was hitherto labouring under a great disadvantage, both the Moonsiffs' *Kutchery* being held in one room. Lately a separate house has been sanctioned to remove this inconvinience. But a very important thing still remains to be done. The witnesses who are required to come to the Court for giving evidence, are obliged to stay out in an open field at the mercy of the weather, there being no shelter for them from sun or rain. But if an ordinary house be erected which can be done with a very small expense it will be a great convenience to the public.

We commend the above to Sir Richard Garth, who lately directed his attention to the condition of the Munsifs' Cutcheries, many of which are no better than cow-sheds.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE has the following on perjury and other immorality in England :

Attend the law courts, where without the judges so accustomed to hear witnesses forswear themselves, that perjury of the rankest sort passes without notice and without punishment. Judge Hannen certainly remarked a short time ago, that his court was unhappily distinguished by the prevalence of this scandal. But Sir James criticism might have been uttered with equal truth by every judge on the bench. There is not a court at Westminster but witnesses commit wilful and corrupt perjury daily, almost hourly. "They all do it from gentle to simple; from my lady who does not desire to be divorced by her husband, to the confiding seamstress who has inveigled a wealthy fool into an amatory correspondence. They lie through thick and thin: they even go out of their way when doing so, by constantly giving emphasis to their false testimony by such exclamations as "on my solemn oath before God I swear this, that, or the other. All this is notorious—so notorious as to attach little attention.

The above as regards judicial lies; let us hear what our contemporary says regarding immorality in politics and other walks of life :

As for principle, the only one put into practice, is to employ all possible means for the attainment of power, and once having got it, to retain the precious boon at any amount of sacrifices of political consistency. "They all do it"; Whigs, Tories, Liberals, Conservatives, Home Rulers, and even that "party to himself" the great Gladstone. "Get into office and stay there"; behold all the law and the prophets of the political world! Not less currency has the maxim in the church. What other excuse can there be for the barefaced nepotism habitually practised by several right reverend prelates and "Fathers in the Lord"? What other excuse for the public buying and selling of livings, in face of the ordination vow? As for the Turf, its noble and right honorable patrons are thorough believers in Lady Mordaunt's pathetic creed of life. Scratching horses at the last moment, the dissemination of lying rumors about favorites keeping a good animal in the back ground for years, in order to make sure of landing heavy odds on some big handicap, friendly arrangements with other owners, the inscrutable mystery of "making a book to win either way"—do not even the most honorable men in the Turf occasionally practise dirty tricks of this sort? Among histrionic circles the same plea is put forward, and readily accepted on behalf of the rapid growth of immorality among actresses,

We dare not add any remarks of our own to the above.

"THE FRUITS OF PHILOSOPHY" seem to have been realized in France. The decrease of population has alarmed thinkers on social questions. M. Laroche Joubert has propounded a scheme for doubling the population. He has submitted two *projets de loi* to the Versailles Chamber. The honourable gentleman proposes that all citizens who can produce two, three, or four legitimate children shall be exempted from military service to their country. But he does not stop here. People, thinks M. Joubert, are culpably neglectful of their country's interests by refusing to become benedicts. Bachelors

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should be gently forced towards the hymeneal altar under penalty, if they refuse to assume conjugal fetters, of finding themselves deprived temporarily of their civil rights. His second *project de loi* suggests the advisability of erasing from the list of electors all Frenchmen between the ages of twenty-six and forty, until such times as they shall have taken unto themselves a wife. Not to be too rigorous, however, he inserts in his project a saving clause for the benefit of those persons whose deformities or infirmities are such as to preclude them from any chance of pleasing the fair sex, and who are thus from no fault of their own condemned to a single existence. Why not try polygamy to help the multiplication table?

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSIONARY, who is writing to the *Indo-European Correspondence* regarding the condition of the ryots in the Sunderbuns, says: "It was the custom amongst the native Protestants, on a Hindu's first showing a disposition to become a Christian, to "deprive him of his caste" by making him partake of a Christian's rice and *kooka*. I very strictly forbade my people such a practice, and reserved to myself to permit a Hindu catechumen to give up his caste by eating with the Christians. Thus I keep my hands free, and if after a time of probation, I have reason to suspect the man's sincerity, nothing prevents my refusing to admit him." The Roman Catholic Missionary is decidedly honest and sincere. He does not seek to fill his flock by having recourse to "pious frauds."

RAIN has fallen in almost all the Divisions in Bengal, except Patna and some districts of the Bhangulpore, Orissa, and Chota Nagpore Divisions. It is the dry districts of the west, which are chiefly suffering from the drought.

THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION has offered five scholarship for girls for competition in Bengal, three of the annual value of Rs. 48 each for the lower vernacular standard and two of the annual value of Rs. 60 each for the middle vernacular standard. The sholarships are to be called the "Mary Carpenter" scholarships and tenable for one year. According to the suggestion of the Director of Public Instruction the scholarships will be distributed among the five educational circles of the Presidency, Burdwan, Eastern Bengal, Rājshye and Behar.

SATURDAY, 29TH JUNE.

ALTHOUGH THE EPIDEMIC of small-pox in Calcutta has abated, still at the latter end of June the death-rate from it stands at a figure, which would be considered alarming at the proper season of an ordinary year. The deaths from small-pox in the week ending 22nd June were 36, from fever 76, from diarrhœa and dysentery 23, from cholera 19, from tetanus 17, and the rest from other causes. Six children were still-born and two died from old age. None of the xymotic diseases seem to affect the non-Asiatic and mixed races, of whom only one died from small-pox, three from fever, four from apoplexy and the remaining 11 from other causes.

CHINA is afflicted with a fearful famine, and the Emperor has set a noble example of self-denial in order to help the poor sufferers. We read:

On the 9th March this office had the honor to receive a message from their Majesties the Empress ordering that thenceforward the morning and evening meal be reduced to half its ordinary quantity. Again, on the 19th March, the Grand Secretariat forwarded copy of a decree from their Majesties to the effect that in view of the suffering and misery that the people of Shansi and Honan were undergoing, causing them to desert their homes and wander elsewhere in search of food, those in high places should not endure the slightest approach to extravagance or waste. The Comptrollers of the Imperial Household were, therfore, to direct their secretaries of departments to exercise rigid economy in palace expenditure, and submit estimates of the probable amount of the retrenchments that could be effected, remembering that every fraction of superfluous expenditure that could be dispensed with would enrich by that amount the funds to be distributed in relief. On the same day a further decree was received from their Majesties commanding that from that date, the use of flesh should be discontinued, and only vegetable food partaken of until rain had fallen.

And orders for economy in other directions have been issued. There is a touch of humanity and piety in these proceedings, which really exalteth the Crown. If the Governor General in Council and the Presidency Governors and other high officers of the State in India had in view of the dire famine cut down their own salaries, what a moral effect would it have had upon the people! When the finances of India were involved about forty years ago, Lord William Bentick the then Governor General of his own accord reduced his own salary by Rs. 5,000 a month, and thus an irresistible impetus was given to economy. But we live in altered times.

HIS HIGHNESS the Holkar cherished it as a great grievance that he had not received any reward for his services during the Mutiny. We are glad to learn that an *amende honorable* has been made at last. It is stated that the British Government have presented to the Maharajah Holkar three hundred and sixty square miles of land in the Khandeish zillah, in honour of the Assumption of the title of Empress of India by Her Majesty the Queen. There had formerly been a dispute between the Maharajah Holkar and the British Government about this land. It was decided at that time that the land was the property of the British Government It has now, however, been most gracefully made over to the Maharajah as the gift of the Empress of India.

WE ARE glad to learn that the Government of Bengal has granted one year's extension of service to Babu Peary Mohun Bannerjea, Deputy Collector, Calcutta.

A FRIEND at London informs us that Mr. Woodrow's bust has a faithful resemblance to the original.

IT APPEARS that Mr. White, the manager of the Tetulbaria Factory, Meherpore, has been committed to the High Court on a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

IN OUR last notice of the Post Office we understated the cost involved in the new delivery arrangements of the Calcutta Office. Not four but ten new mail carts have been built and sixteen horses kept. Besides the usual complement of drivers and syces there is a European Jockey at a salary of Rs. 75 to 90 per mensem to look after the horses and supervise the keepers and drivers.

THE STATESMAN'S London Correspondent says that Dr. George Smith has come home so saturated with the spirit of the old *Friend* as to call his house in one of the Edinburgh suburbs, 'Serampore Lodge.' "Serampore" was formerly spelt—Sir-I-am-poor!

THE ALLEGED author of the Road Cess Defalcations in Krishnaghur, Benigopal Mookerjea, has been arrested and is under trial before the Joint-Magistrate of Nuddea. If this case be properly conducted, it may do the work of a commission.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1 Annual Report on the condition and management of Jails in the North Western Provinces and Oudh for 1877. 2. Report on the Jails of the Central Provinces for 1877. 3. Report on the Lunatic Asylums in the Central Provinces for 1877. 4. Report on the Archæological Survey of India for 1871-72 and 1872-73. Vol. VI. 5. The Salt Tax in Southern India. By the late Lord Hobart, London. 6. Punchyet Guide, or a Bengali Edition of Act VI. of 1870. 7. An Abridgement of Sanskrit Grammar Part II. by Mudhoosudon Chowdhry Part. I. 8. Report on the Bengalitollah Preparatory School of Benares for 1877.

WE THANK the Secretary to the Social Science Association for a copy of the report of its last meeting. We regret we cannot make room for it.

WE ARE requested to draw attention to an advertizement from Babu Bhobun Mohun Chatterjee L.M.S., who is coming to Calcutta to practise as a physician. Having been long in the fever districts this gentleman has acquired great experience in malarious fever cases.

WE HAVE received the following telegram from Assam dated the 29th instant:

Goalpara paper says that through the instrumentality of the Deputy Commissioner an address was by local zemindars presented to Colonel Keatinge who cancelled improper sale of Taria Pergonah.

THE INDIAN DAILY NEWS is mistaken in stating that it is Mr. Metcalfe, who has initiated the enquiry into the management of the municipal markets of Calcutta. It was Dr. Rajen dralala Mitra, at whose instance the enquiry was set on foot.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 24th June.—A Select Committee of the Commons on arrears Ordnance Majors recommends that claims of Engineer Majors be allowed in full Majors of Garrison Batteries less 100 and Majors of horse artillery less 200 rupees monthly officers with contracts able to show profits not exceed above entitled to difference.

24*th*.—Sir Stafford Northcote, in replying to a question in the Commons said that it was not intended to bring the Indian troops from Malta to England. Charles Mathews the veteran comedian is dead.

24*th*.—The Congress sat from one till four this afternoon and agreed to the principle of the Bulgarian settlement as set forth in the *Times* of last Saturday and agreed to by England Austria and Russia subject to ratification by the Congress. Details are to be settled at Tuesdays sitting. Nine months is the time fixed for Russians to evacuate Bulgaria and Roumelia.

25*th*.—The Congress sat for two hours to-day. The Turks are maintaining a reserved attitude at the Congress. Prince Gortschakoff was absent owing to gout. It is expected that the Congress will terminate in three weeks and re-assemble in the autumn to ratify arrangements. Russia advises Servia and Montenegro to arrange directly with Austria.

26*th*.—*Daily News* states that it being settled that a Prince is to be elected for Bulgaria and the outline boundaries being also settled no dangerous questions remain. The *Morning Post* states that after the Russian evacuation of Turkey a temporary mixed European occupation of Bulgaria and Roumelia is expected.

27:—The Under-Secretary for India in the House of Commons this evening said that Government did not desire to withhold the returns of mortality during the famine, and would lay the same on the table when received from the Indian Government. He quoted a despatch of the 21st January showing that the scope of enquiry of the Famine Commissioners was unrestricted.

28*th*.—In the House of Commons this evening the Under Secretary for India said that the salt tax negotiations proceeding between the Indian Government, Raipootana and Central India, to abolish the customs line, were rapidly nearing a conclusion, the object being a full supply to all the people in India at the cheapest rate consistent with financial needs.

Berlin, 22nd June.—The Earl of Beaconsfield has made the continuance of the Congress conditional on the acceptance of an arrangement for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the vicinity of Constantinople. The Earl of Beaconsfield has made the continuance of the Congress conditional upon acceptance of arrangement agreed to between England, Russia and Austria at Friday's interview, and which was published by *Times* of 22nd, and not upon immediate withdrawal of Russians from the vicinity of Constantinople. The Russian plenipotentiaries have appealed to the Czar in the matter. The Congress to-day sat for three hours, and made great progress. The *Journal de Saint Petersburg* contradicts the statement that Russia is opposed to Greece, and say Russia is willing to see the liberation of the Hellenes.

23*rd*.—Bulgaria will include Sophia. It is certain that Austria will either annex Bosnia and Herzegovia, or that they will be under her direct tutelage. Montenegro receives Antivari, excluding foreign bottoms. Russia and Roumania will probably divide Bessarabia. Prince Gortchakoff is confined to his bed.

23*rd*.—The Czar has replied to an appeal from Russian Plenipotentiaries that he will adhere to the arrangement on condition that administrative autonomy is secured for a province south of the Balkans, wherein, there shall be no Turkish troops. Congress will decide the matter on Monday.

26*th*.—The *Times* publishes numerous letters respecting communication with India in consequence of paper read by Colonel Goldsmid at the United Service Institution favoring the construction of a railway from Tripoli to Koweit and thence by Jask to Kurrachee. The *Times* condemns the route as unpaid. Sir A. Cembal and the Marquiss Blantyre advocate communication from the Gulf Scanderoon to Mosul joining the trunk at Constantinople and Bussorah. The Under Foreign Secretary stated in the Commons that the Powers ratified the Chefoo convention with the exception of the clauses relating to the collection of the lekin tax upon, and the limits of area to be exempted from tax and that these clauses were now under consideration.

26th.—The Congress has finished with Bulgaria, and made arrangements to dismantle all the Danubian and Bulgarian fortresses. An Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is imminent.

27th.—The Congress is taking holiday. Henceforth the sittings will be daily. Prince Gortschakoff on Wednesday made an impressive and pacific speech, to which Lord Beaconsfield responded Owing to Prince Gortschakoff's broken health, he will probably withdraw from the Congress and be replaced by Count Shouvaloff. Eastern Roumelia will be titled the Southern Province of Bulgaria. It is stated that Russia has offered the Princedom of Bulgaria to Prince Charles of Roumania.

Constantinople, 23rd June.—The Turkish right wing has advanced.

Madrid, 23rd June.—The Queen of Spain is very ill with an attack of gastric fever.

25*th*.—The Queen of Spain died to-day.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the *4th July* at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Polarisation of Light.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on *Saturday* the *6th July* at 4 P. M.

Subject: Atmospheric Air and Water.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JULY 1, 1878.

THE RESTORATION OF ASSAM TO BENGAL.

THE Press Commissioner has struck a new line of usefulness for his office. He supplies scraps of news, not ordinarily accessible to the public, and for which we feel grateful to him. He has now commenced to furnish the Press with materials for criticisms of public measures before they are adopted. This is as it should be. The Press is an unpaid Council of the Governor General, and if due facilities be afforded to it for the discussion of public questions before final decision is arrived at, the Government will feel itself greatly strengthened in its actions. As the first step in this direction the Press Commissioner has communicated to the Press a statement of the arguments, which have been laid before the Government of India both for and against the proposal for the restoration of Assam to Bengal. The reasons on both sides have been fairly put, and represent the views which are advanced by the two parties to the question. We will briefly review these reasons.

The pro-annexation party urge the following reasons for the restoration of Assam to Bengal. (1.) Because all the reasons for which the separation of Assam from Bengal was

avowedly carried out four years ago will be found on examination, to have now entirely lost their force in consequence, either of subsequent administrative changes, or the teachings of experience; and to persist in a policy thus condemned by experience and unprovided with any fresh arguments in its favor, would be the perpetuation of administrative anachronism. (2.) Because the theoretical objects for which the separation was made have not been attained by its practical results. The two things which Assam wanted, and still requires are, new blood, and more money, and all that Assam has got by its separation from Bengal is the conversion of a Commissioner into a Chief Commissioner. (3.) Because Assam is not rich enough to stand by itself. The great natural resources of the province can only be developed by large grants. Such grants Assam had not received, and is not likely to receive, from India. (4.) Because Bengal, if Assam were restored to its administrative jurisdiction, would have the strongest and closest possible interest in rapidly developing the resources of Assam,—an interest which Bengal does not take, and cannot be expected to take under the present system, in the energetic prosecution of a task undertaken by the Government of India, and of which, under the present system, the successful accomplishment would carry with it no special benefit to Bengal. (5.) Because under the operation of the present policy of financial decentralization, the local revenues of Bengal have revealed an astonishing power of expansion, which will enable the Bengal Government, without recourse to fresh taxation for that purpose, and with the certainty of great eventual benefit to its other provinces, to devote to the improvement of Assam the full annual expenditure which Assam urgently requires. (6.) Because, the ultimate result of such expenditure on the part of the Bengal Government will directly benefit the population of Bengal as well as that of Assam; whereas a similar expenditure on the part of the Government of India would be derived from the taxation of provinces not similarly interested in the development of Assam. (7.) Because it would not under the present system, be either expedient or justifiable for the Government of India arbitrarily to deduct from the normal increment in the Bengal Revenue a large special contribution towards Imperial expenditure on the improvement of a province separately administered by the Government of India. (8.) Because under the present system, the administration of Assam inevitably tends to become weaker instead of stronger; the fact being that able Bengal officers, who are acknowledged to be the officers best fitted for service in Assam, but who all look to the Bengal Government for promotion will not willingly go into the Assam Service. (9.) Because the future of Assam largely depends upon its provision of emigrant labor; whilst the provision of emigrant labor practically depends entirely upon Bengal. (10.) Because, unless the Bengal Government has a direct interest and reponsibility in the welfare of Assam, it cannot be expected to expend its provincial revenues in promoting an emigration to Assam which will not benefit Bengal if the interests of Assam and Bengal are administratively severed. (11.) Because Bengal is so directly interested in the management and result of any frontier policy carried out in Assam that, in practice the Government of Bengal cannot be altogether excluded from participation in the executive work of any such policy; but, under the present system, the co-operation of the Bengal and Assam authorities, in this task is rendered unnecessarily inconvenient, difficult, and dilatory; the result being equally disadvantageous to Assam, Bengal and India. (12.) Because the proposed amalgamation would not, in the opinion of competent authorities, inconveniently increase the work of the Bengal Government; whilst it would greatly improve and facilitate those constant administrative relations between Bengal and Assam which are conducive to their mutual advantage, and which are so inevitable, under any administrative arrangement most conducive to the satisfactory conduct of them from a financial, political social, and executive point of view.

The anti-annexation party advance the following arguments in support of their opinion: (1.) The separate administration of Assam under the Government of India, which has been tried for four years, has not yet received a fair trial, partly owing to insufficiency of time and partly to insufficiency of expenditure. (2.) The acknowledged weakness of the Assam administration can be remedied by the appointment of Commissioners &c. (3.) Bengal is not more likely, than the Government of India, to foster the resources of this province; and may, at any time, be prevented from doing so by the occurrence of famine. (4.) Assam, if liberally treated by the Government of India, will make great progress without assistance from Bengal; and, indeed, has actually done so since the date of its separation. (5.) The Government of Bengal is just as much overburdened now, as it was four years ago, when this consideration to a great extent determined the severance of Assam from its administration. (6). The proper remedy for the undoubtedly backward condition of Assam would be, not the restoration of Assam to Bengal but the annexation to Assam of the whole portion of Bengal east of the Megna. (7). Because the acknowledged inconvenience of the existing arrangements between Bengal and Assam for the administration of relations with Frontier tribes is not more difficult of control than the circumstances tending to similar inconvenience in the arrangements between Bengal and Burma. (8). Because the existing arrangements in regard to emigration, though at present unsatisfactory can be made to work smoothly by willing co-operation between the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Commissioner, without placing the latter under the instructions of the former. (9). Because the Government of Bengal does already facilitate emigration in the interests of Assam. (10). Because the admitted difficulty of getting efficient officers for the administration of Assam may be removed, as a similar difficulty has been removed in Burma, by appointing two or three young Civilians annually, on arrival, to the service of the province. (11). Because the deficiencies of the Assam Administration are mainly due to the illiberality of the Government of India, which has not allowed to Assam *a rateable proportion* of the increasing revenue of the province and because the assumed inability of the Government of India to spend more money on the improvement of this province than the Government of Bengal is able and willing to spend upon it, involves a discreditable confession of weakness.

We have always been opposed to the separation of Assam from Bengal, and our reasons are not exactly those which have been advanced by the pro-annexation party. We do not look at the question purely from a provincial point of view. The creation of Assam into a separate Province is an imperial question; the imperial exchequer bears the cost of its maintenance; a regular staff of officers has been entertained for the administration of the province, and the question is whether the outturn has been worth the cost. Four years' experience shews that it has not been so. Assam is as backward as ever, while the separation of the province has deprived it of the benefits of the progressive policy which is pursued in Bengal. Assam as a province cannot feed its own administrative staff. There is not sufficient room for promotion, and the officers of Assam consequently lack the necessary stimulus for exertion. The covenanted Civil Service does not suffer by this lack of promotion, because Civilians may be transferred from one province to another and *vice versa* according to the exigencies of the public service. But the same opportunities do not exist for other branches of the public service, and this circumstance necessarily tends to exercise a depressing influence upon the administration. The uncovenanted service finds itself cabined, cribbed, and confined. The same remark applies to the Public Works Department, and we believe much dissatisfaction prevails in that department in consequence of want of promotion. On the other hand the cost of administration has greatly increased. If the advantages of a separate administration had been tangible, we would not have minded these disadvantages, but when we see that the dissociation of Assam from Bengal has not been attended with commensurate good, the increased cost of administration is simply unjustifiable, while the growing discontent of the administrative staff in consequence of the absence of promotion is a positive evil. On the other hand the separation of Assam from Bengal has withdrawn the former from the influence of the progressive policy pursued in the latter. Some of the Bengal districts have been transferred to Assam, and as they have been subjected to the non-regulation system of the new province, they have become heavy losers. The change of treatment for them has been a positive injustice to them. Then, again, although Assam now forms a separate province, its substantive law is derived from Bengal, but unfortunately the Bengal Government derives no direct interest in it. It is said that Assam wants men and money. As regards the first, the cooperation of the Bengal Government is absolutely necessary; the cooly immigrants, who go to Assam, are chiefly raised in these provinces, and when such is the case, it is of the utmost importance to give the Bengal Government a direct interest in the work. With regard to money a good portion of the increased expenses for a separate administration could be saved by the amalgamation of Assam with Bengal, and that amount would be available for the prosecution of improvements in the province. Great stress is laid upon the fact that Assam is an outlying province, the circumstances of which are not similar to those of Bengal Proper, and it is, therefore, urged that the Bengal Government is not quite in its element in dealing with Assam. This is a view to which we cannot assent. Strictly speaking both Behar and Orissa are as dissimilar from Bengal as Assam, and yet the same ruler successfully governs the three provinces. The restoration of Assam to Bengal will lead to economy, and contribute to efficiency by holding out fair hopes of promotion to the officers employed; the yoking the province to the progressive car of Bengal will necessarily carry it onward.

THE ARMS ACT.

I.

THE LAST annual report of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, affords another proof that the stringent provisions of the Arms Act were not required. If the executive officers would but duly enforce the regulations laid down for the traffic in and transport of arms, all that the Government wants in this direction would be attained. The following table shows what arms and ammunition have been imported through the port of Calcutta during the past six years:—

YEARS.	Sporting rifles.	Double and single sporting guns.	Pistols and revolvers.	Gunpowder.	Shot.	Percussions caps.
	No.	No.	No.	lb.	Bags.	No.
1872 ..	581	4,017	1,481	102,475	22,706	56,459,500
1873 ...	392	2,364	555	127,616	12,935	19,001,284
1874 ..	419	1,199	389	141,561	7,173	29,081,000
1875 ...	441	1,778	482	107,435	15,771	19,097,000
1876 ...	280	1,536	283	93,300	15,290	21,203,000
1877 .	186	716	438	84,560	18,894	23,586,700

Mr. Metcalfe, who is a Nimrod, is in his element when he writes about arms and ammunition. He has made some interesting observation on the subject. The decrease in importation of rifles and guns from 581 and 4,017 in 1872, and 280 and 1,536 in 1876 to 187 and 716 in 1877, is very marked. There was an increase in the number of pistols (438 to 283), and a very considerable increase in the quantity of percussion caps—an increase of 7,300,000. In the importation of gunpowder there seems to be very little variation. The average for the five years is 110,894lb. An annual importation of from 80,000 to 100,000lbs seems to satisfy the trade demand when supplemented with country powder. "I calculate," says Mr. Metcalfe, "the sale of English powder is about one-half of the total quantity sold by dealers as English imported powder. Some investigations made in the course of an inquiry into the gunpowder trade show that natives are unable to glaze their gunpowder, and that if mixed in a larger proportion than one-half, the unglazed grains can be readily detected. As the native gunpowder is, I believe, relatively more explosive, the mixture does not tend to deteriorate the so-

called imported gunpowder. I understand, then, that for every pound of gunpowder imported another pound is added by the retail dealers and sold as English manufactured powder." The most curious feature in the imports of the trade is the quantity of percussion caps. The imports of caps at first sight appear to be out of all proportion to the import of gunpowder. There are about 80 gun charges of powder to a pound; in other words 80 caps are ordinarily required to explode a pound of gunpowder for sporting purposes. Now, the average importation for five years, omitting the year 1872, is 23,393,796 caps. If used legitimately for sporting purposes, the proportionate expenditure of gunpowder, according to Mr. Metcalfe, should have been 292,422lb for the above quantity of caps. He remarks: "According to this calculation the gunpowder does bear some proportion to the number of percussion caps imported; for the English importations would average for the five years 1,10,894, which when mixed with the native powder, would aggregate 2,217,788lb, leaving 71,030lb, to be accounted for blasting, fire-works, salutes, marriages &c. These calculations are merely conjectural. That there is an unceasing war being waged day and night against wild animals is clear to any one familiar with Indian jungles, and I have no doubt that a considerable quantity is thus expended; but a native *shikaree* seldom shoots, even at the larger and more dangerous wild beasts, until he is certain of his game, and the demands of *shikarees* would not therefore account for all this consumption. Possibly, the manufacturers of fireworks may employ English powder very largely; hitherto no control has been exercised over their operations, and in the absence of statistics mere conjectures are of little value." It would be thus seen that according to the calculations of Mr. Metcalfe, who is an authority on the subject, the arms and ammunitions are applied to legitimate use.

With regard to the transport of arms Mr. Metcalfe furnishes the following return for the last two years:

Lower Bengal, Behar, and Orissa	1876	No.	354	154	4	19,798	Bags.	2,282	3,647,000
	1877		329	138	...	30,566		2,586	5,095,600
Bengal Frontier District within the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal	1876		319	23	28	14,010		1,492	3,216,600
	1877		150	20	7	6,555		687	1,084,500
Other provinces beyond the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal	1876		156	40	5	17,188		6,440	6,807,900
	1877		217	26	...	31,588		6,372	6,889,500
Total	1876		829	217	37	50,996		10,214	13,671,500
	1877		696	184	7	68,709		9,645	13,069,600

Lower Bengal, Behar, and Orissa	1876	No.	...	2,528	3,833	832	267	8,652	10,542
	1877		...	2,413	4,736	278	2263	4,686	4,436
Bengal Frontier District within the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal	1876		...	...	12	...	...	...	...
	1877		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other provinces beyond the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal	1876		...	...	...	...	10,300	...	632
	1877		...	...	...	34,500	600	1,642,300	247,200
Total	1876		...	2,528	3,833	832	267	8,652	10,542
	1877		...	2,413	4,736	278	2263	4,686	4,436

Lower Bengal, Behar, and Orissa	1876	No.	...	...	...	...	2,200	7,164	19,866
	1877		...	...	500	7,536	2,200	7,164	19,866
Bengal Frontier District within the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal	1876		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1877		...	.....	.....	...	...	...	...
Other provinces beyond the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal	1876		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1877		...	...	...	34,500	600	1,642,300	247,200
Total	1876		...	...	...	...	2,200	7,164	19,866
	1877		...	...	500	7,536	2,200	7,164	19,866

Lower Bengal, Behar, and Orissa	1876	No.	4	354	154	19,798	Bags.	2,282	3,647,000
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	1877		...	217	26	31,588		6,372	6,889,500
Total	1876		37	829	217	50,996		10,214	13,671,500
	1877		7	696	184	68,709		9,645	13,069,600

It will be seen from the above that the transport both of arms and ammunition to Assam and the frontier districts diminished considerably during the past year, owing no doubt to the increased vigilance exercised by the *loca* authorities in granting passes. Outside thel Lieutenant Governorship of Bengal, Cawnpore stands first in the list of importing districts, to which place 10,210lb of gunpowder, 1,260 bags of shot, and 3,342,000 percussion caps, passed up from Calcutta during the year. Next comes Meerut, which imported 5,100lbs of powder, 908 bags of shot, but only 70,000 caps. Thus the existing rules have proved quite sufficient in checking the transport of arms to the frontiers, from whence mischief is apprehended. Mr. Metcalfe says that there is no means of supervising the direction on which trade in arms takes between Calcutta dealers and private individuals. The Lieutenant Governor has accordingly sanctioned the appointment of a special Inspector for this purpose. If this Inspector duly inspects the registers of sale and sends a faithful abstract to the Police Commissioner, the Government will have a complete hold over the trade.

II.

THE Government of India has recorded a very important Resolution on the manner in which the Arms Act should be introduced. In the first place the Governor General in Council has resolved that the Act should come into force on the 1st October 1878. Section 27 empowers the Governor General in Council to exempt persons, or classes, or tracts, or to exclude any description of arms, from the operation of any prohibition or direction contained in the Act. The Government of India proposes to exempt from the operation of the prohibition against going armed, or possessing arms (other than cannon) and ammunition:—

(*a*) all soldiers, sailors, volunteers, police officers, jail officers serving the Government;

(*b*) all Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, Honorary Magistrates, and judicial officers of or above the rank of Moonsiff;

(*c*) all European and East Indian subjects of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress;

(*d*) all Consuls, all duly accredited vakils or agents of Native States;

(*e*) all feudatory Chiefs with their retenues, on the occasions of their entering or residing in British India.

It is proposed also to exempt, for the present, "bows and arrows" from the operation of the Act. The list of exemptions we submit is not sufficiently large. There are several other classes, which ought to be exempted. For instance, agriculturalists in districts infested with wild animals. For the protection of their own lives and of their crops they are compelled to keep and use arms, and we do not see why they should be restrained in this matter. Similarly zemindars, who need armed guards for the protection of their houses and for the transport of their treasure from one place to another. Then the educated classes generally. Their loyalty is beyond question. Again, if the East Indians are to be exempted, why not the Armenians, the Jews, and the Parsis? Further, why not Europeans and Americans, who come here for trade, business, or travel? They can not have any sinister views against the Government. The Government of India says: "Any Local Government that desires the withdrawal of any part of its jurisdiction from any of the prohibitions or directions in the Act, or the exemption of any classes or persons not included in the above classes, should submit a statement of its recommendations, with reasons, and with a precise statement of the particular prohibitions or directions from which withdrawal or exemption is recommended. Such recommendations should reach the Government of India not later than the 1st September next." We do hope that the local Governments will extend the list of exemptions. Indeed, we are of opinion that the new Act as regards the transport and use of arms ought to be extended to those districts only, the people of which are noted for their turbulent disposition, and from whom political mischief may be apprehended. The Government of India remarks: "In some parts of India tahseel chuprassees, village watchmen, and even process-servers go armed; and, in some of the frontier districts, lumberdars, patels and village headmen ought to possess arms. The Governor General in Council will be ready to notify exemptions for such classes of people, on cause being shown by the Local Government. It is necessary that these persons or classes should be exempted. Under Section 4, the Governor General in Council proposes to extend Sections 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 to sulphur. Any Local Government desiring to show cause against this proposal, or desiring to recommend that in part of its territories these Sections, or any of them, should be extended to saltpetre, lead or other material, is directed to represent its views in sufficient detail not later than the 1st September next." Again, the Government of India remarks that, although it may be inexpedient to fetter traffic in saltpetre in those districts where it is produced, yet in districts on the western and eastern frontiers, it may be practicable and advisable to restrict the trade in both lead and saltpetre. The opinion of the local Government is invited on this point. It is not at present proposed to authorise, under Section 9, the levy of duties on arms imported into British India by land. The Government expresses its opinion that there is no considerable importation of arms or ammunition by land into British India, either from Native States, or from countries beyond the frontier. But if any Local Government suspects, or should hereafter suspect, that an inward traffic in arms or ammunition is growing on any land route, early report should be made, so that either duties may be imposed, or the importation may be otherwise checked. The subjects, to which the Local Governments will have to give early attention under the orders now conveyed, are briefly, as follows:

(*a*)—Is there any objections proposed in paragraph 3 of this Resolution; and should any other classes or persons be exempted from the same prohibitions?

(*b*)—Is it desirable to withdraw any tract from any of the prohibitions or directions in the Act; if so, from which, and why? (paragraph 3 of Resolution)

(*c*)—Is there any reason why the clauses named (paragraph 4 of the Resolution) should not be extended to sulphur?

(*d*—Is it desirable to extend any of these sections to saltpetre and lead; if so, what sections, and within what local limits?

(*e*)—Is it desirable to impose the scheduled, or any other duties, on the import of arms by land; if so, on what routes, at what places, and what rates? (paragraph 7 of Resolution.)

(*f*)—Are any alterations or additions advisable in the proposed draft rules under Sections 10 and 17 of the Act; and, if so, what? (paragraphs 3 and 13 of Resolution.)

(*g*)—Ought any searching stations to be established at or near the frontier under Section 11 of the Act; if so, where, and how will they be managed? (paragraph 9 of Resolution.)

(*h*)—Should Section 15 of the Act be now extended to any non-disarmed district? (paragraph 12 of Resolution.)

(*i*)—Is there any reason why the number of ports proposed to be open for the importation and exportation of arms should not suffice? (paragraph 13 of Resolution.)

There are other points on which the Local Governments are invited to take steps and issue orders, *viz*:

(*j*.)—For the instruction of Magistrates and Police officers regarding the visiting and inspection of the shops, stocks and accounts of licensed manufacturers and vendors, and making periodical reports of such inspections to their superiors, (paragraph 5 of Resolution.)

(*k*.)—In respect of sanctioning warehouses for the deposit of arms and ammunition under Section 7 of the Act.

(*l*.)—Declaring what persons, other than Magistrates or Police officers, are empowered to disarm any person going armed without a license.

(*m*.)—In respect to the disposal of arms deposited at a Police station under Sections 5, 14 and 16 of the Act.

(*n*.)—Notifying in the local Gazette what districts or tracts have been disarmed within the meauing of Sections 14 and 15 of the Act, and what districts have not been so disarmed.

(*o*)—For declaring what officers, other than Magistrates, shall be especially empowered to conduct searches for arms, under Section 5 of the Act.

(*p*.)—For the guidance of Magistrates and Police officers regarding the disposal of confiscated arms and other articles.

(*q*.)—For the prompt payment of rewards to all officers and persons giving information leading to

conviction, or making arrests, of offenders under the Act, or to seizure of articles which may be contraband under the Act.

(r.)—For the formal intimation to all customs, railway, and river steamer authorities and officers, of their responsibilities, and of the rewards they may earn, under the Act, and under the orders of the Government.

(s.)—For keeping registers of licenses by officers authorised to grant such licenses under the Act and Rules.

We do hope that the rigors of the Arms Act will be mitigated in the rules, which the Government will promulgate for its practical enforcement. Draft rules have been circulated for the opinion of the local Governments; we may take a future opportunity to notice them.

MR. GLADSTONE ON THE INDIAN CONTINGENT.

MR. GLADSTONE has numbered three score years and ten, and yet the energy of his character is untiring. He is the soul of the agitation against the policy of the Government of England regarding the Russo-Turkish war and the terms of peace, and by speech both in and out of Parliament, by pamphlets, by articles in periodicals, by all manner of expression he has sustained this agitation. His last contribution in this direction is an article in the *Nineteenth Century* on the Indian expeditionary force to Malta. This article has a peculiar value for India, because Mr. Gladstone has discussed the question from an Indian point of view. He rightly says that the mere despatch of seven thousand troops from India has not ruffled the temper of European politicians. "No," he remarks, "it was the tapping of a copious spring, and this was but the first gush of the water. Not seven, but seventy, or if need were, seven hundred thousand men were easily obtainable from the vast reservoir of the Indian Empire; and the eighty millions upon whom Russia draws for her military force, would shrink into insignificance before the two hundred and forty millions of the Indian subjects of the Queen." Mr. Gladstone of course denounces this measure as unconstitutional and unstatesman-like. With all deference to him we submit that it is by far the cleverest move Lord Beaconsfield has made in the midst of the Russo-Turkish complications. It has immediately raised the military prestige of England. It has restored her to her old position as one of the foremost Powers of Europe. Mr. Gladstone, it is well known, has never looked with a kind eye upon the political connection of England with India. Thoroughly conscientious he does not approve of the way in which India was won and is kept. We are therefore not surprised to see him enunciate similar views in reference to the present question. He writes:

"We have no partnership with India: we have simply a mastery over her, We may say, and I hope with a good deal of truth, that our power is exercised according to justice; that moral causes enter into the relation, and make it workable; that it is endured by the Natives because they feel it to be on the whole beneficial. It cannot be supposed that abstractedly they like it. The dominion of a nation over another and especially a distant nation, with blood, language, history, and religion of its own, is not abstractedly desirable. It is a deviation from the natural order; and it is marked with an exceptional, perhaps a provisional, character. One scale is heavily weighted with motives adverse to the connection. Our object, if we are wise, should be to lay in the other scale not a sword of Brennus, but every material and every moral document we can devise; and with these a graciousness of procedure, which shall wipe away the sense of subordination, and leave free scope for the development of the conviction of a common interest. It is not enough, that these scales should hang evenly balanced. As long as they so hang, we remain upon the edge of danger. We ought to have a large reserve of good to our credit against contingencies, if we desire to rest secure in our guardianship of India."

Noble sentiments these, but there ought to be a qualification. If, as Mr. Gladstone justly thinks, that it is not enough that England and India should hang together, but that "England should have a large reserve of good to her credit against contingencies," then the Malta expeditionary force from India is not a mistake viewed in that light. It has a tendency to raise the Indian troops to a higher platform of duty and glory. Mr. Gladstone continues:

"But even if this be completely attained, still must remain true that we are masters, and not allies; thirty millions at one end of the world are the masters of two hundred and forty millions at the other; on these two hundred and forty millions we have laid the burden of their own government, and of their own defence. Some say that they already pay more than the cost of their own army. I think otherwise; but if that opinion be true, the case is so much the worse. On various occasions, the troops of India have been used for purposes which we must admit to have been at least partly British: as, for instance, in China, Persia, and Abyssinia. But in all these cases there has been asserted and believed to exist an Indian, as well as a British, interest: if, as the whole case supposes, the maintenance of our empire in India is a true Indian interest. I do not dwell upon the fact of payment for the occasion as it arises, entirely or in the main, by the British Treasury; for if India has to provide for us a great military Bank, on which we are to draw, it is not enough that she should debit us with the amounts drawn: the keeping of the fund on which we draw is a standing charge upon her. But what may be said, and said with truth, is this; that all these operations have been within the old East Indian limits of the two Capes; and that the numbers employed have been so small, and the time required for the operations so short, that they have not sensibly touched the question of the scale, on which an army should be maintained for India with a view to its own defence."

In the abstract England had no more claim upon the Indian soldiery and treasury for services in China, Persia or Abyssynia than she has for services in Europe, for such services were required in both cases beyond the boundaries of India; in all those cases the services of India were required for the sake of the exigencies of England's general policy. By inviting India to join England in a fellowship of arms, we are disposed to think she has paid a compliment to her dependency. Mr. Gladstone says:

In this partnership, the effusion of blood will fall largely to the Indian share. But the policy will be ours. The command ours. The reward and promotions ours. India will be as much at the beck of our will, as the elephants whom, perhaps, with the aid of a little winter clothing, she may send us. We shall use her, as we use a steam-engine, and shall consult her just as much; she will have just as much control over the expenditure of her own blood, as the locomotive over the consumption of fuel; at least this alone will be her share unless and until she explodes. In the disasters of our wars, she will be involved. In their successes, she will have no concern. We may conquer territories but not for her. We may even impose war indemnities, but she will have no voice in determining their application; and, if a portion of them should, indeed, find its way to her treasury, it will be the bounty given to a suppliant by his landlord, not the freely and rightfully adjusted share of a common remuneration for common sacrifices and efforts. It is very much to say to India as we have said, we will measure, raise, and direct, and you shall pay the army which is to defend you from the foreigner. It is now, in the light of a sublime discovery, to be said, we will raise, manage, and direct, and you shall pay the army which is to be kept on such a scale that besides defending you, it shall be sufficient to add largely to our European force and make up for the disadvantage at which we stand in the struggle with any Continental Power. Is it possible that this can work? Will India be content? Can India be content? Ought India to be content? Is distant, and to her children ungenial climes in lands of usage, tongue, religion, wholly alien, the flower of her youth are to bleed and die for us, and she will have no part but to suffer and obey. This is injustice, gross and monstrous injustice; and those, who are parties to its perpetration, must prepare for the results to which injustice leads.

Mr. Gladstone has been doubtless actuated by a most benevolent motive in penning the above, but we submit that India would feel more grateful to him, if he would place the ordinary administration of Indian affairs by England on a better footing instead of inveighing against the Malta expedition, which is not, to tell the truth, regarded as a grievance by the Indians. On the contrary they hail the companionship in arms with Englishmen, for if they can establish a character for valour, skill in arms, and a strong sense of duty, they will force upon England that partnership, that equality of law and justice, which Mr. Gladstone nobly wishes to see established. In our opinion the despatch of Indian troops to Malta has a moral value of the highest importance.

THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA.
II.

IT is always a disagreeable task to sit down and enumerate the shortcomings and laches of an individual or a public body or a department of the public service, but we consider it a crime to be a passive looker-on of evils, which admit of remedy; and when the evils arise from the faults of an individual or of a vicious system, they are the legitimate subject of public criticism. The annual reports of the Post Office do not disclose the internal working of the department; the general results only are exhibited, and the Government thinks it does its duty by recording a general resolution of commendation from year to year. The Post Office is undoubtedly a prominent blessing of British rule in this country. Never in the history of India was there such facility of postal communication as now. But because the Post Office is a benefit, that is no reason to suppose that it is not susceptible of improvement. The expansion of correspondence takes place from year to year as the people advance in civilization and education is brought to the doors of the poor; and for this no credit we hope is asked for by those who have the management and control of the department. The efficiency of postal management is best shewn in the speedy transmission of articles entrusted to the department, in the protection of private property, and in their quick and correct delivery. We fully appreciate the measures, which have resulted in the reduction of postage, in the partial abolition of redirection charge, in the provision for granting acknowledgment for ordinary covers posted, and for getting acknowledgments to senders of registered letters on the payment of a small fee. We have not much faith in the efficiency and utility of the overland parcel system chiefly because we have no guarantee that the articles will reach their destination; we have equal misgivings about the efficacy of the insurance system; but, be that as it may, it cannot be denied that the object of the rules is good. In the present notice we propose to discuss the regular postal work, we mean the quick and correct transmission of letters, packets and parcels.

In the first place we will consider the quality of the agency employed to do the heavy work of the Department. In the annual report for 1874-75 Mr. Hogg in alluding to the complaints made by the public against the department apologetically observes that "in a department that necessarily is for the most part worked by an agency badly educated and receiving small pay, irregularities will occur, the expansion of the department, the multiplication of delivery agencies, and other postal extensions in the interior of districts must be attended with an increase of these irregularities." It is a pity that those who have the direction and control of the department should content themselves with merely deploring an evil, when they know full well that it is perfectly remediable, and that they are mainly responsible for its existence. Postal work is necessarily disagreeable, because it admits of no respite. The executive branch of the department enjoy no Sundays and holidays and have night work besides, and those who are located in the interior of the provinces labour under peculiar disadvantages, which even handsome pay cannot compensate. Of course it is not practicable without incurring enormous expenditure to provide high salaries to persons acting as Post Masters of district and sub-divisional towns, and to Deputy Post Masters and Head Peons of village offices and Receiving Houses, but it is possible to keep them contented by offering them incentives to work in the shape of promotion, transfer from unhealthy to healthy localities, and kind and considerate treatment. Instead of doing this the department in its fits of economy curtails their small salaries, allows them to be treated like dogs and cats, takes no notice of merit and character, but suffers the humble and unprotected to vegetate for years together in unhealthy stations. If you guarantee promotion and periodical transfers from unhealthy to healthy stations, you may reckon upon securing fairly educated and intelligent young men to begin with Rs. 15 a month. Under the present system, we mean as it is fostered, the Post Office is the refuge of the destitute, the riff-raff of society, with of course exceptions here and there. Take for illustration's sake Bengal, which is the largest and most important of the postal circles of India. In Bengal the staff of officers, including clerks and others, comprise 7093 persons, of whom the Post Master General is the head and the Post Master of Calcutta the second important officer in the circle. The Post Master General is assisted by 14 Inspecting Officers, of whom 12 are employed in out-door work. The rest comprise Post Masters of district towns, Sub-Inspectors of Districts, Deputy Post Masters, and Head Peons or Sub-Deputy Post Masters. In 1868-69 the salaries of the lower employes were graded under a scheme matured by Mr. Riddle, the Roland Hill of India. In 1873-74 by one stroke of the pen the salaries of the deputy and sub-deputy post masters were reduced to the original minimum in total disregard of the principles on which Mr.

Riddle's graded system was based. The excuse for this act of injustice was to provide clerks for the Inspectors from the clippings of salaries, which were low enough without them. In 1869-70 the salaries of the Peons were graded and were divided into two classes, one at Rs. 6-8 to Rs. 9 and the other at Rs. 9 to Rs. 12, and this also was done in pursuance of Mr. Riddle's scheme. Two or three years later salaries of the Peons were fixed at the minimum rate of Rs. 6-8 and Rs. 9 respectively, and the increment was done away with, and this was done because the graded system entailed troublesome work on the Account Office! This office, we may remark *en passant*, swarms with clerks, has an enormous establishment of nearly 150 men, who cost the state about 80,000 Rs. per annum, and instead of their interest being subordinated to the interest of the Department the most important work of the Department was made subservient to the convenience of the Compiler's Office. Under the same short-sight-policy other changes are being yearly carried out, one of which is the indiscriminate conversion of Sub-Post Offices into Branch Offices. We will not trouble the reader with an account of what the Branch Offices and Sub-Offices are. He will understand what the distinction is when we say that through the Sub-Offices letters and covers are received by the addressees much quicker than through the Branch Office—the difference of time in some cases comes to 24 hours. There are nearly 4,000 Post Offices in Bengal, and under the new system more than two-thirds are Branch Offices, and in time this number will doubtless receive a further expansion, and all this is done chiefly to reduce the work of the Account Office and diminish the labor of inspection, while the loss to public in time is very serious.

But are the Postal authorities really in earnest in their measures of economy? Within the last six years important retrenchments of the nature we have described above have been made, but with what result? The following figures show that the total expenditure of the department has been steadily increasing:

1872-73	Rs.	52,32,689		Rs.
1873-74	„	54,21,251	1875-76	56,39,310
1874-75	„	55,70,868	1876-77	57,87,667

Of these sums the disbursements on account of salaries and establishments were in

1872 73	Rs.	41,03,565		Rs.
1873-74	„	42,28,265	1875-76	44,70,424
1874-75	„	43,15,942	1876-77	45,72,322

It will be further edifying to know how much of the above is appropriated by the controlling and directing agency, and we present the figures below:

1872-73	Rs.	75,560		Rs.
1873-74	„	73,820	1875-76	67,545
1874-75	„	71,926	1876-77	77,987

There was a decrease in the three years from 1872-73, but there was at once an increase of Rs. 10,000 in 1876-77. The poor men who rusticate in the jungles, who bear the heat and dust, the toil and trouble, the wear and tear of a most fatiguing work, have the ineffable satisfaction of seeing their small earnings, Rs. 15, and 20 and Rs. 30, respectively, clipped from year to year in order to swell the income of those, who bask in sunshine and make themselves merry at Sybiris 8 out of 12 months of the year. It would have been something if the cuttings and clippings had resulted in an appreciable saving to the department, and if those who recommended and sanctioned them had acted on some consistent principle. We will cite two glaring cases, which tend to shew that economy cannot be the object of the postal authorities. Firstly, the postal arrangement for the conveyance and delivery of mails on the Eastern Bengal Railway line formerly consisted of an establishment of 9 mail guards at Rs. 10 each, four travelled each way in four up and four down trains and one man was a spare hand. Their work was supervised by an Inspector, whose pay originally was Rs. 150, under a subsequent revision raised to Rs. 200, and whose work comprised the supervision of postal work of nearly four large districts, 24-Pergunnahs, Hooghly, Bancoora, and part of Midnapore and Nuddea. The work was excessive, and a little relief would have contributed much to the easy despatch of business. But this was denied, and the officer concerned did his best to keep himself abreast with his work. At present, exclusive of the supervision of stationery offices for which there are separate Inspectors, the work of the Eastern Bengal Railway line alone is performed by three sets of clerks, each set consisting of three hands, under the supervision of a Superintendent on Rs. 150, with travelling allowance at Rs. 5 per diem. There is, again, a record office for which there are two clerks and some coolies, leaving out house-rent and contingencies. The increase of cost has thus been eleven-fold for the same quantity of work that is Rs. 1,000 in the place of Rs. 90. Secondly, the jurisdiction of the Post Master General of Bengal comprised only the other day the whole of Bengal Proper Behar, Orissa, Assam, Railway work from Howrah to Buxar on the East Indian line, and from Sealdah to Kooshtea and Goalundo and from Sealdah to Canning. Now the Railway work on the E. I., E. B., and S. E. lines has been transferred to a separate agency, and Assam has been formed into a separate circle under another administration. Notwithstanding this material reduction of work the number of Inspectors is the same, the Post Master General himself is assisted by two supernumeraries, and has a Deputy for Behar, and a proposal has gone up for another Deputy for East Bengal. Of course it is very agreeable to draw high pay and do no work, but what we wonder at is the iniquitous system under which these increases are sanctioned by Government. It comes to this that while the poor working bees are left almost to starvation, the higher officers, who have quite an easy life, are pampered more and more. It is to this scandalous state of things we beg to invite the attention of the Government of India.

THE TRANSFER OF OCCUPANCY RIGHT.

IV.

IN our last article on the subject we gave the opinions of eminent judicial and revenue officers on the question of the occupancy right. We propose to give in this issue some extracts from a remarkably luminous minute of Dr. C. D. Field, Judge of Burdwan. In judicial knowledge and legal accumen he yields to no member of his service, and whatever he says on the subject of law reform is entitled to great weight. In a minute dated the 8th June 1877, in reply to a requisition from Government, Dr. Field recorded his views on the subject of the amendment of the Rent Act. He divides the question into two, I.—A proposal for facilitating the collection of rent. II. Whether a right of occupancy ought to be made transferable? We are concerned with the second question. Dr. Field writes:

> The second question—Is it advisable to make a right of occupancy transferable?—though simple in form, to my mind raises some of the most serious considerations and does not admit of a categorical answer. This right of occupancy was created by Act X of 1859; and I am afraid that to it we owe most of the difficulties with which we have at present to deal. Before Act X was passed there were various interests in the land possessed by *raiyat*, which were sanctioned by custom and differed in almost every district in Bengal. They were well understood by the people, and, apart from exceptional cases of oppression, received a certain amount of respect from the most high-handed landlords. Act X is wholly silent about these customary tenures. The general impression is that they are all included together in the right of occupancy created by the Act, and that no other and greater incidents now belong to them than are by the Act attached to the right of occupancy. In some districts where there has not been much rent litigation, these customary tenures are still to be found; but in other, perhaps in most, districts the impression has prevailed that interests of long standing and considerable value have been contracted to the right of occupancy, which is the creature of the Statute. I may mention as an instance the *kadimi khudkasht raiyats*, especially those of them whose families have held since the time of the decennial settlement. Those who take the most opposite views of the subject will admit that these were generally considered, by their landlords and others to be entitled to favorable consideration and favorable rates. In the eye of the law, however, they became mere *raiyats* having a right of occupancy and were reduced to the same level with those who had held for twelve years merely, and who would have had no vested rights at all, unless Act X had conferred them. In a paper which Sir Henry Ricketts sent out from England last year it is said that, when Act X was before the legislature, there was no mention made, and therefore we may fairly presume no intention of giving to occupancy *raiyats* any considerable advantage beyond protection against causeless dispossession. When, however, the right of occupancy, as defined by Act X, came to be the common measure of the interests of *raiyats* of those who had rights before Act X was passed, as well as of those who had not the hardship of cutting down the privileges of the former class to a mere protection from eviction had its effect in creating a sort of general idea that a right of occupancy in all cases carries with it more than mere protection from ejectment. With a few exceptions this idea pervades the minds of all who have recently discussed the question of enhancement. The fact, however, is that those who passed Act X had no such issue present to their minds, and did not intend to deal with this question at all. They merely intended to protect against causeless dispossession; and a *right of occupancy* was in their minds synonymous with *protection from eviction so long as the occupier paid his rent*. Perhaps it would have been well if the term had been defined in the Act; or if a proviso had been inserted to explain that the legislature intended merely to add an additional incident to holdings then in existence without altering any of the other incidents of such holdings. Wise after the event, we may regret that no such definition or proviso was inserted in the Act; but we cannot now escape the fact that what was intended to be a new incident, annexed to all kinds of holdings which had then existed for twelve years, has itself come to be regarded as a new kind of holding, in which all previous holdings have been merged and their peculiar characteristics lost.

> That a right of occupancy *per se* is not transferable is settled law, see the case just quoted, and also *Narendro Narain Raj* vs. *Eshan Chundra Sen* XXII, W. R. 22, both which cases were decided by a full Bench. But though the right is not transferable *per se*, there are many cases in which it has been decided that a right of occupancy may be transferable according to the custom of a particular district, estate, or locality. Now, I think, if all these cases be examined, it will be found that what is transferable is not the right of occupancy, but the *jote jumma* or other holding, which was transferable by previous custom, and to which Act X annexed a fresh incident of protection against eviction. It is only eighteen years since the Act was passed, and the right of occupancy created; and this period is too short to create a custom under any system of law. It is quite possible that some rights of occupancy, the creatures of the Act and having no previous origin, have come to be regarded as transferable, but I am tolerably certain that this has happened only in those districts in which there were *raiyati* interests transferrable by custom before the Act was passed, and the creature of the Act came to be assimilated to, and confounded with, these. I say nothing about those cases in which the land with the right of occupancy has been transferred with the consent of the *zemindar* or at his instance by an execution sale. As to the latter class of cases, it has been remarked that they cannot be evidence of any right on the part of the *raiyat* to transfer without the assent of the *zeminnar* (per Phear, J., XX, W. R., 141), and the same remark applies with greater force to the former class.
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> The right of occupancy continues only as long as the rent is paid. A right of occupancy *raiyat* from whom an arrear of rent is due at the end of the year is liable to be ejected, unless the arrear with interest and costs be paid into court within fifteen days from the date of the decree passed for the amount [sections 21 and 78 of Act X of 1859; sections 22 and 52 of Act VIII (B.C.) of 1869]. The right of occupancy *raiyat* may be ejected without compensation. The Legislature intended to give him protection from wanton eviction as long as he pays his rent. As soon as he ceases to pay his rent, protection is withdrawn. If it had been intended in conferring a right of occupancy to give some advantage beyond protection from eviction, I think the Legislature would have provided for compensation. Fortunately, in my opinion no such provision has been made, and the extremely difficult task of dealing with cases of compensation (whether for eviction or for improvements) has not yet been imposed upon the civil courts. A study of "The Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act 1870," the 33 and 34 Vic., cap 46, and of the cases decided thereupon will shew the difficulties in which we will land ourselves if we ever take this matter out of the domain of private contract into that of legislation.
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> In protecting the *raiyat* from eviction as long as he paid his rent, the authors of Act X set at rest a question which was a disputed one ever since the time of the permanent settlement, and indeed before that time. Some authorities were of opinion that *raiyats* had by the custom of the country a right to retain possession of their land as long as they paid the rent; others, on the contrary, believed that the *zemindar* had the power of eviction if he chose to exercise it. In my chapter on the *tenure* of *land* in this Presidency (paragraph 25 of the introduction to the Bengal Regulation), I have pointed out what I believe to have been the real state of things. In all probability the advocates of neither opinion were wholly right or wholly wrong. Some *raiyats* of old standing, whose fathers or forefathers cleared the waste and reclaimed the *jangal*, were entitled by custom to hold their land as long as they paid the rent; but there was no such custom for the *raiyats* of yesterday, who came into the occupation of lands which had been made culturable by the labours of others. Speaking for myself, and with the greatest respect for those to whose labours we owe Act X of 1859, I think that it would have been wise to discriminate between those classes whose rights were different according to custom and public opinion, and that it was a mistake to elevate the *raiyat* of twelve years' standing to equality with him who cultivated his paternal fields reclaimed by his ancestors for the plough.
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> The protection of the *raiyat* from wanton eviction was, I have no doubt, the leading idea which moved the Legislature to create a right of occupancy. To my mind the idea is most excellent and the motive most benevolent: yet when Mr. Butt, actuated by the same benevolent motive introduced last year into the British Parliament a Bill which had for its object to confer similar right upon Irish tenants, or, the learned gentleman put it, to create a *perpetuity at a valued rent*, he was met with some extremely hard language, and hon'ble members did not hesitate to speak of confiscation and robbery and something worse without being called to order by the speaker. I am aware that the history of land in Ireland and India is not exactly the same; but with some knowledge of both I venture to say that there are some remarkable phases of similarity in what has happened in both countries and that the experience of what has been done in either is by no means to be despised in legislating for the other. The debates on Mr. Butt's Land Tenure Bill (see *The Times* of Thursday, 30th March, and Friday, 30th June 1876,) contain much which (with the omission of some strong language) might have been appropriately spoken in 1859 in the Indian Council Chamber upon the wisdom of creating a right of occupancy.
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> It might be argued that the *raiyats*, descended from those who cleared the jungle and drained the bheel, are not on principles of natural justice entitled to more than the sturdy Scotch who cleared the forests and reclaimed the lakes of Ulster. But let it be conceded that they are entitled to all that the right of occupancy has given, let it be granted that Act X merely restored to them something which the decennial settlement had taken away from them under a mistaken conception of the relative rights of

zemindars and *raiyats*. Can it then be contended that the *raiyat* of yesterday—the cultivator who never reclaimed the waste or cleared the jungle, but settled upon culturable land, made fruitful by other hands and by the labour of others—has equal rights with him whose forefathers held at the time of the decennial settlement, whose ancestors first brought the soil under the plough? Let us allow that a mere measure of justice was given to the *kadimi raiyats*: can we say that justice demanded similar privileges for those whose prescription is but a dozen years and who cannot base a title upon clearance and first cultivation? When we look at the rights of the *zemindars* (that they have some rights even their opponents will admit), can we say that there is no injustice to them in allowing a tenant who has merely cultivated reclaimed land for twelve years, paying a moderate rent, and making no improvements whatever, to acquire a valuable property in that land? It may be, it has been said that the *zemindar* has the remedy in his own hands. He can provide by contract against the acquisition of the occupancy right. I am, however, unable to see the force of this argument. It is not reasonable that the law should force any man or any class of men to seek a remedy against its provisions. It is, moreover, impossible for *zemindars* to force all their *raiyats* into contracts that will have the effect of preventing them from acquiring rights of occupancy. The attempt to do so would disturb the entire collection of rent upon an estate, and at once introduce antagonism where the relations between landlord and tenant had been most peaceful.

I take it to be indisputable that the creation of fixity of tenure in persons who have no antecedent rights, which justly entitle them to this peculiar benefit, is merely a transfer of a portion of what constitutes property from one set of persons now called landlords, to another set of individuals now called tenants, but who will become landlords under the new state of things—I quote in part the words of Mr. Longfield who further says—"It may be taken as an undoubted axiom of political economy that if a man is permitted to sell or retain his own property, and to select the purchaser, he cannot be prevented from getting the utmost price that another person will be ready to pay for it. *The only test of value is the price which the public is willing to pay.*" Customary rents were formerly the universal rule in this country. I take it that in all progressive countries where such rents exist or have existed, the tendency is for competition rents to supersede them in course of time. Contract gradually takes the place of custom in adjusting the relations between landlords and tenants as between other classes of the community. The influence of our civilization in India operates powerfully in the same direction. The relations between *Zemindar* and *raiyat* in Bengal have already been considerably affected by this tendency, and this influence not uniformly all over the country, but in some districts more, in some less, in others perhaps not at all as yet. We deny the *zemindar* the power to let his land to the highest bidder, we limit his freedom of contract, but the tendency shews itself in a desire to make the right of occupancy transferable. If we forbid the landlord to *let* his land to the highest bidder, but allow the tenant to *sell* his right of occupancy to the highest bidder, we do not restrain competition or limit contract: we merely alter the form of their operation, having transferred from the *zemindar* to the ryot a portion of what constitutes property. Before we irrevocably commit ourselves to this course, we ought, I think, to be quite certain of its political expediency and of its ultimate benefit to the community.

One great argument in favour of peasant proprietorship (Mr. Mill has pointed out that fixity of tenure is a form of property) is that it tends to discourage an improvident increase of population. Owing to the custom of early marriages and other well-known causes, the people of Bengal are increasing so rapidly in numbers that, notwithstanding the occasional checks supplied by famine, Burdwan fever, cholera and other diseases, they must ere long, and in some districts very soon, reach the limit of subsistance provided by the land. Any provision that would restrain this too rapid increase of population would be most disirable. I think that the grant of a right of occupancy to all persons who can manage to hold land for twelve years, so far from retarding an improvident increase of numbers, is likely to produce the contrary effect, if indeed it be possible for the human race to multiply more rapidly than it is now doing in provinces. Security of tenure at a moderate rate, in a country in which the land yields its increase in return for the least possible labour, amongst a class whose standard of comfort is extremely low, must encourage population to increase until it is checked by the impossibility of obtaining a bare support. It takes so little to support human life in Bengal that a succession of years of average plenty may enable population to reach the utmost verge of the means of subsistence, or even to go beyond it. In such a state of things, in a country in which the means of subsistence are obtainable from the land alone, and depend mainly upon a food-crop of one kind, it is terrible to contemplate the human misery which must result from a visitation of famine.

Dr. Field thus concludes:

The conclusion, then, to which I am led is that a right of occupancy might and would in all probability be beneficially made transferable if the following propositions were enacted into law:—

I.—Declare that in passing Act X of 1859 and Act VIII (B.C.) of 1869, it was not the intention of the Legislature to alter or interfere with any usage or custom of holding of land, or with any tenure or the incidents of any tenure founded on such usage or custom, further or otherwise than is expressly enacted in the said Act.

II.—Declare that all such usages, customs, tenures, and incidents thereof, proved to have existed since the time of the permanent settlement, and not opposed to any Regulation or Act, or to the common law of the country, shall have the force of law.

III.—Repeal the section which gives a right of occupancy to persons holding or cultivating land for twelve years, saving all rights acquired under the section before its repeal.

IV.—Give the *zemindar* a right of pre-emption where the *raiyat* desires to transfer his rights by private sale.

V.—Declare that a right of occupancy acquired under Act X of 1859, independent of any such usage or custom as aforesaid, and every holding let to a cultivating *raiyat* for the purpose of actual cultivation shall be voidable on proof that the tenant has converted himself into a middleman.

VI.—Declare that in the event of the sale of an estate for arrears of Government revenue, a right of occupancy, acquired under Act X and not accruing to a holding otherwise protected against avoidance upon a revenue sale, shall be voidable on proof that the tenant owed half a year's rent to his landlord and had not tendered payment thereof. This may prevent combination for the non-payment of rent

If the above changes were made in the law, I think that the enhancement difficulty could be much more easily settled. If the question be whether, the law remaining unaltered, desirable to make a right of occupancy transferable, my opinion is against the expediency of such a measure.

If it be decided to make a right of occupancy transferable, it will be necessary to consider whether the *zemindar* should be allowed to eject for non-payment of rent, or should be limited to the power of bringing the holding to sale in execution. It will also be necessary to provide a procedure by means of which a purchaser may get his name entered on the *zemindar's* books. Sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Patni Regulation VIII of 1819, will probably supply the best model for this procedure.

Dr. Field is so logical and exhaustive in the treatment of the subject that we have preferred to quote him at length. It will be seen that it is not a zemindar or a zemindar's advocate, who has so strongly argued against the declaration of the transferability of the occupancy right. Dr. Field is a thorough master of the Regulation law, and he gives it as his opinion that the occupancy right as defined in Act X of 1859 had before no existence in the country. As for custom is it not absurd to refer to custom in respect of a right, which has not been recognized even a score of years? We should, however, wish it to be understood that we do not subscribe to all the suggestions of Dr. Field. For instance we do not think that the right of pre-emption would avail at all, or that it would be any advantage to cancel the tenure on proof that the ryot has been in arrear for six months before the sale of an estate on default of revenue. If the original proprietor goes out on sale, what advantage would it be to him if the tenure be cancelled, and why should he take the trouble to prove the ryot's default, if he would not benefit by it?

THE DRAINAGE OF THE HOOGHLY DISTRICT.

We do not know who is the author of the pamphlet, which has lately been issued "on the theory and practice of drainage in the Hooghly district." He has evidently studied the question with much care. He has formed a correct idea of the fall of the country, which, strange to say, there are not many Europeans who, though working here for years, do understand. He rightly remarks: "The tract along the west bank of the Gunga in which so many of you reside, has, as you know, a gentle though by no means regular, slope from East to West, *i. e.*, from the bank of the river towards the *beels* or *jolahs*: and when in a state of nature, the drainage is down this slope, away from the river towards the *jolahs*. These *jolahs* again are drained by *khals* or natural channels, cutting through the higher lands into the Gunga." As obstructors to drainage he says: "Perhaps the most efficient obstruction to drainage is that caused by increasing the raised area, in extending the village site. Every *bigha* reclaimed from the *maidan* and added to the *bastoo or oodbastoo* land, prolongs the slope of the possible channels by which the village may be drained, and increases the difficulties of the drainer. The enclosure of waste lands, the construction of roads and village paths, raised fields, mud walls (*pagar*) and other works of the kind to which Raja Degumber Mitter has done such good service in calling attention (not before it was required) are all incidents of increasing population, and may be seen in every village where this condition exists, notably in those which lie near the capital." So far so good. But the writer breaks down, the moment he puts his knowledge to test. He admits that as a rule, drains should be made as much as possible to conform to the slope of the land. But, he remarks, "in many cases drainage is better effected by carrying the drains against the slope of the land. For instance, where the tract to be drained is close to the river bank, a much more quick and efficient discharge is effected by carrying the drainage *against* the slope of the land towards the river, which is close by, than by taking it towards the more distant *jolahs*—more especially, because in the rainy season (when the quantity of water to be drained is greatest) the *jolahs* remain continuously at too high a level for efficient drainage into them." It has not evidently struck the writer that by carrying the drains against the slope of the land, he will be simply obstructing drainage and tempting flood. When the tide will be high the flow from the drains will be sent back, and the same process will take place during the rains when the river is full. It is this incontrovertible fact which led the authors of the Calcutta drainage scheme to make the drains discharge into the Salt Water Lake, and to abandon the idea of carrying them against the slope of the land. Colonel Forbes in his report on Calcutta drainage dated the 4th September 1851 wrote:

"Suppose the Mahratta Ditch enlarged and completely cleared out, from the River at Chitpore Bridge to Tolly's Nullah, what, as concerns drainage, would be the consequence? Simply, that the Town, forming *at high water, an oval dishshaped Island*, would, *as such*, have added to its inherent filth all the rain water falling in the included area and unavoidably detained there by drains, virtually constituting cess-pools, until further dammed up and blockaded by the circumferential flood-tide barriers thus assumptively described.

The main objection to having drains opening into the River or into Tolly's Nullah, therefore within the influence of the tides, is, that either the same or successive loads of *filth get twice a day stirred up in them, without being removed.*"

Take another instance, which we take from Raja Degumber Mitter's pamphlet on the epidemic fever. On the south and west of the river Bhoirub is situated the town of Jessore with its drainage receptacle, the Beel Harina, lying to the south-west of it. A road, called the Dacca road, constructed, it is said, about 60 years ago, runs along its south and western boundaries, intercepting the drainage of the town in its way to the Beel. Jessore became soon after the construction of the road a hot-bed of fever. Raja Degumber Mitter says:

"Not a soul could be met with there who had not a sickly tumid belly and lanky extremities to present. All the laws of sanitation known to the authorities, from the filling up of holes and dirty tanks to the cutting up of jungle, had been experimented upon, and exhausted. So much so that, with the exception of a few cocoanut trees, not a single old tree of any kind could be met with in the place within a few years of the breaking out of the disease. The natural drainage course of the place, when intercepted by the intervention of the road in question, had been attempted to be diverted towards the river on which the town is situated, but ineffectually, as the river was not tidal there, and was so constantly full to overflowing during the rains, that, instead of receiving the drainage, it would very often inundate a portion of the town itself. Thus a new evil was brought on and the authorities, leaving aside the question of sanitation, had to direct their attention as to how to protect the town from inundation. Towards the latter end, two drains were caused to be excavated, running parallel to, and at some distance from, each other, and connecting the river Bhoirab with Beel Harina thereby affording a vent to the overflow of the river into the Beel. But the drains, in their course to the Beel, passed through the town, and thus the natural drainage of the place which had been obstructed by the Dacca road was accidentally, though only partially restored. The immediate consequence was a considerable improvement in the sanitary condition of the town which has lasted ever since. No one that we are aware of has noticed this; and there may be persons disposed to attribute the improvement to tank-filling, jungle-cutting, and other forms of folly and extravagance which have acquired such unenviable notoriety of late. The improvement, however, will be only complete when the drainage channels of the place, which are yet directed towards the river, are diverted to the two drains.

It will be thus seen that by carrying the drains *against* the slope of the land in Jessore one evil was added to another, inundation to impeded drainage, and neither was removed till the law of the natural fall of the country was obeyed, and the old course of drainage was restored!

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

We are glad to learn from a private letter from a friend in London that Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr is a candidate for Parliamentary election. The Indian party is weak, and a few good recruits will greatly strengthen it. Mr. Seton-Karr was the best speaker in the Indian Civil Service in his day. We wish him every success.

We are sincerely sorry to learn that Sir Stuart Hogg has resigned the Civil Service. The country could ill-afford to lose the services of an officer so able, so energetic, and so devoted as Sir Stuart Hogg. We feel every day the absence of his master mind from Calcutta.

The Famine Commission have issued a series of questions with a view to collect information on different points of their enquiry. The questions are very comprehensive but too general. We wish some questions had been made general, which would be applicable to all provinces alike, and some special with reference to the peculiar

circumstances of each province. It is not too late we believe to thus divide the questions and also frame new ones with reference to particular provinces.

ANOTHER DEFALCATION in the Collectorate of the Calcutta Municipality! A clerk it is rumoured has made away with about Rs. 400 deposited by a collecting sircar.

MR. ELLIOT, Officiating Meteorological Reporter with the Government of India, has recorded a valuable note on the south-west monsoon of recent years. He says that the data at the disposal of the Meteorological Department for the determination of the general character of the approaching south-west monsoon are quite insufficient for the purpose of prevision. The present system of collecting and comparing observations taken over the whole of India has been in operation barely four years. The experience of three years is not sufficient to indicate more than vague and unreliable probabilities. Nevertheless Mr. Elliot has supplied a mass of valuable information. He has initiated daily weather reports, which published in a compendious form are calculated to do much good.

MR. COWASJEE DORABJEE applied to the Government of India on behalf of certain Parsi gentlemen for permission to enlist themselves as Volunteers. In reply the Military Secretary to the Government of India writes:

The object of the Governor-General in Council in aiding the formation of Volunteer Corps in India has been the same as that of her Majesty's Government in England, namely to provide an efficient supplement to an army, which as is the case with the English army, cannot, in the event of its being called into active service, be largely and effectively recruited at very short notice; but the same does not exist, in the case of the native army of India; therefore Native Volunteer Corps are not required either as an addition to it, or as a substitute for it.

Nevertheless, if any natives, whether Parsees or other should desire to take their place amongst the European members of a Volunteer Corps, understanding sufficiently the English language, adopting the uniform of the corps, and being willing and able to share in its duties, the Governor-General in Council would be glad to see them enrolled in it.

The Governor-General in Council does not know whether this will accord with the views of Mr. Cowasjee Dorabjee and the other Parsee Gentlemen who have tendered their services to the Government, but his Excellency in Council desires that his cordial thanks may be conveyed to them for this mark of their loyalty.

We do not quite understand the Government of India's reply. The Volunteer corps so far as we understand the movement is a supplement to the Indian Army as a whole; the distinction now made between the European and Native branches of the Indian Army is quite arbitrary, and was never before suggested by Government. As for permitting Parsis and other native gentlemen to enrol themselves in English companies, the right to admit them rests with those companies, and if they refuse the Government we fear cannot interfere. Such being the case the so-called concession made by the Government of India means nothing.

IN REPLYING to our remarks on the *Statesman's* notice of a Catholic Missionary's account of the condition of the ryots in the Sunderbuns, who are being sold out and brought in by mahajuns, our contemporary says:

"But we would not let the mahajun buy out the cultivating tenant. The state has a clear, indefeasible right to say who shall be its tenants. And we would no more allow a *mahajun* to buy the occupancy, than an English landlord will let his farm to a money-lender, to be sub-let by him to a farmer. Under native rule, a *mahajun* owning land, and cultivating it by a slave of a tenant, was unknown, and should never have been allowed under our own rule. The State has the clear right to say,—"We will have no middle "men classes. Cultivate the land yourself, or give place to another cultivator. Sell your right if you like, but we reserve the right of objecting to the man you sell to. Once for all, the *mahajun* shall not become the owner." We will have none but actual farmers holding of us."

The *Statesman's* remarks involve a double inconsistency. If the transfer of the occupancy tenure be declared absolute, then the zemindar will be deprived of his natural right to select his own tenant, a right which he admits is exercised by the English landlord, which was exercised by the Indian landlord in the Mahomedan days, and which he would see maintained in its integrity where the State is the landlord. Our contemporary is quite right in saying that the State ought to have the privilege of selecting its own tenant, but he ought to be consistent; he ought not to blow hot and cold in the same breath. What is a just right in the English landlord and the State landlord in India, ought to be recognised as such in the Indian landlord. Then again the writer would restrict the occupancy right to the cultivating ryot, but does the law so restrict it? The words of the law are: "Every ryot who shall have *cultivated* or *held* land for a period of twelve years shall have a right of occupancy in the land so cultivated or held." Thus the right accrues to the ryot who has *cultivated* or *held* the land. An occupancy ryot should not, therefore, necessarily be a cultivating ryot, but our contemporary would wrest the right from him, who does not cultivate. The construction of the law is thus given in a judgment of the late Mr. Justice Bayley: "I think that the benefits of section 6 are not restricted to those who with their own hands till the soil, but extend to those who are *bona fide* actual cultivators in the sense that they derive the profits from the *produce* directly, and are not middlemen who have no connection with the produce except by receiving the rents in cash or kind from those who do directly derive their profits from the produce"—(IX, W. R., 579). The mahajun or other men of capital may if the occupancy tenure becomes transferable absorb all holdings of that description, and under the *bhag-jote* or *nij* system of cultivation reduce every cultivating ryot to a mere day-laborer. Will the transferability of the occupancy right then benefit the cultivating class? It will simply pauperize the mass of the population and necessitate a poor law for the country. We beseech our rulers to pause and consider. If they take a leap in the dark, they may break their own legs and those of the poor ryots too.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR in his Resolution on the administration Report of the Calcutta Police makes the following pertinent remarks:

The proceedings taken against persons suspected of possessing stolen property have not been altogether satisfactory. It appears that 250 persons were thus stopped by the police in the streets. No further action was taken in 112 cases, but in the remainder the persons challenged were taken to the police-station. There those who were able to satisfy the Superintendent were released. Only 20 persons, are shown to have been arrested, and of these none at all were convicted. It is explained that temporary detentions of this nature are not now regarded as arrests, and that no recognizances are as formerly required from those released by the order of the Superintendent. This is altogether irregular, and can only have the result of vitiating the returns and necessitating long explanations, while it leaves the police without a very important check on their proceedings. It appears that most of these people are arrested at night. It is clear that the Superintendent of the division cannot in many cases see them before morning, and that a large number of persons must have been put to inconvenience and indignity without good cause. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that in cases where the arrest has been shown to be the result of officiousness or spite, due punishment is inflicted on the constable; but it is not stated that this was done in any of the numerous cases in which arrests were wrongly made.

We hope these remarks will have the desired effect.

IT IS SAID that Mr. Lely, the Magistrate of Surat, before committing the accused in the Surat riots case, paid a flying visit to the Governor with what object we do not know. The *Bombay Gazette* publishes the following telegram from Surat on the subject dated the 24th ultimo;

After taking some formal proof, and hearing Mr Phero zesha's remarks, all the six accused were committed to the Sessions to-day on charges under Sections 115, 325, and 333. Suddenly, after commital at 6 P M., and in spite of strong objection for want of notice, the Magistrate proceeded against Muncharam, accused No. 2. under Act XXV. of 1867, for non-declaration of the *Svatantrata* periodical"

Sir Richard Temple's Government had hitherto acted with moderation in dealing with the Vernacular Press of the Bombay Presidency. We cannot believe that there has been any change in the circumstances of the Presidency, which suggest a change in his policy. Need we say that there is a strong party in England closely watching the attitude of the Indian Government towards the Vernacular Press.

A MOVEMENT has been set on foot by some friends of the late Mr. John Cochrane for a memorial in his honor, which will take the form of a purse to his niece. Sir James Colville has headed the movement in England by subscribing £100, and the Hon'ble the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore in India by subscribing Rs. 1000 in aid of the fund. When Mr. Cochrane left India about six or seven years ago the Native Community presented him a purse. We hope the present movement will meet with their generous response. Mr. Cochrane was a sincere and devoted friend to the people of this country.

WE CONGRATULATE Mr. Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, on the happy idea of admitting out-students of private Sanskrit schools and *toles* to an examination to be held annually for the purpose of conferring upon them academical titles. The standard required to be attained by these private students shall be the standard of the Sanscrit Senior Scholarship Examination and proofs of subsequent studies. At present the *toles* confer these titles upon the students, who prosecute their Sanskrit studies in those private institutions, and they are recognized by the native community; a formal official recognition of them would give them much value. It is further proposed that all those, who take up a special branch of Sanskrit learning to an equally high standard, should receive certificates indicative of their proficiency in that special branch. The Lieutenant Governor in sanctioning the proposal has directed that the examination shall be held annually in the first week of the Bengali year, and that the candidates shall be examined in the books prescribed under the heads of General Literature, Hindu Philosophy, Hindu Law, and the Vedas; a fee of 2 rupees shall be levied from the examinees, who shall send it with their applications to the Director of Public Instruction. A certificate of proficiency signed by the Principal of the Sanskrit College and by the Director of Public Instruction shewing by an appropriate title the branch of Sanskrit learning to which it relates shall be granted to each successful, student. We hope some of our wealthy and public spirited countrymen will found scholarships for the reward of successful students in this examination.

WE TAKE the following from the Notice paper of the House of Commons dated the 7th ultimo:

Mr. Hanbury,—To call the attention of the House to the language of an article recently printed in a publication called the "Nineteenth Century," which article purports to have been written by a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, lately First Lord of the Treasury, and especially to the following paragraph:—

(This paragraph is quoted in our article on Mr. Gladstone on the Indian contingent.)

And to move, That, in the opinion of this House, such language on the part of a Member of Her Majesty's Privy Council is much to be condemned, as unwarranted, inopportune, and calculated to create sedition in Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

Mr. O'Donnell,—As an Amendment to Mr. Hanbury's Motion, to move, That, having heard the extract cited from the "Nineteenth Century" on the subject of extraordinary military burthens upon India, and in view of the often condemned but unreformed abuses of Government and Administration in India; the imposition of unjust and inquisitorial taxation upon the industrious poor; *the violation of the perpetual land settlement in Bengal by arbitrary cesses*; the coercion of Native opinion and the discouragement of Native literature by gagging Acts of the most despotic description; the unrepresented condition of the Indian people both in their own land and in the Imperial Parliament; the habitual waste of the revenues levied upon those unrepresented masses; the recurring famines, largely occasioned by the neglect of the public works of the former rulers of India, and aggravated by the reckless and ignorant application of the means of relief and by the practical immunity from accountability enjoyed by the higher officials; the liability of the processes of Law to the interference of the executive power; as well as considering an immense list of individual grievances and wrongs, this House is of opinion, that no service could be performed towards the Crown more valuable or more opportune than to point out the impolicy and danger of imposing upon the people of India extraordinary military burthens in support of the Foreign policy of an Empire from whose free constitution they are excluded and in whose essential benefits they are denied a share.

Reuter has since informed us that Mr. Hanbury has withdrawn his motion. So there will be no debate on the subject.

MR. O'DONNELL is doing good service to India. We take the following from Parliamentary intelligence brought in by the last mail :

Troops of Indian Princes.

Mr. E. Stanhope, in reply to Mr. O' Donnell, said:—It is not in contemplation to interfere with the number of troops in Native States in India as defined in treaty guarantees. The issue of improved arms to the troops of native States is in no way regulated by treaty, but is entirely dependent on the discretion of the paramount Power. (Hear, hear.)

The Maharajah of Cooch Behar.

Mr. O' Donael, asked whether the Maharajah of Cooch Behar was a voluntary visitor to this country ; whether he was a minor ; and whether the Government had received a copy of a petition addressed by the Ranees of Cooch Behar protesting against the alleged forcible removal of His Highness to England ?

Mr. E. Stanhope : The Maharajah of Cooch Behar is a minor. He is a voluntary visitor to this country, and was in no way forcibly removed to England under an armed escort. His visit to England was an object which his father had much at heart during his life-time and which the Maharajah himself has been determined to carry out. No copy of the petition mentioned by the hon. member has been received by the Home Government. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. O'Donnell was evidently not well instructed. He ought to have asked whether the Maharaja of Cooch Behar being a minor could or should have a will of his own, and that if he had wished to visit Europe, whether he should not have been left to carry out his wish when he attained his majority. As for the Maharaja's late father expressing a wish that his son should visit England, this is the first time we hear of it. The present Maharaja was just a few months old when his father died.

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL put the following questions about the new Press Commissioner :

Sir G. Campbell asked the Under-Secretary of State for India if he could state what were to be the functions of the press commissioner lately appointed by the Government of India with the rank of a political agent of the first class ; and whether the Secretary of State in Council had proved that appointment ;also whether papers would be laid on the table containing the dissents on the subject by members of the Council of India, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Mr. E. Stanhope : The duty of the officer appointed to superintend the working of the Vernacular Press Act is described to be to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the legitimate wants and aspirations of the press, to receive and reply to references and complaints from editors,to act as the referee of the press in its communications with the Government on the one hand, and on the other, as the responsible adviser of the Government in its dealings with the press under the new law. It was also to be his duty to read and revise the proofs submitted by those editors who desire te withdraw themselves from the restrictive provisions of the law. I have laid upon the table of the House the papers relating to this subject, and from the last despatch it will be seen that the Secretary of State in Council has requested the Government of India to refrain from putting that portion of it into operation which relates to the examination and revision of the proofs by a Government officer. As regards the last question of the hon. member, the proceedings and speeches in Council have usually been treated as confidential, and my noble friend is not disposed to regard them in any other light upon the present occasion. (Hear, hear.)

Sir G. Campbell said he would take the first opportunity which presented itself to move for copies of the papers in question.

Mr. Stanhope was wholly beside the mark. The Press Commissioner was originally appointed to establish better relations between the Government and the English Press. The superintendence of the Vernacular Press is an afterthought, and the plan for this part of the Press Commissioner's work has not yet been matured. Why did not Mr. Stanhope boldly acknowledge the real functions of the Press Commissioner ? There is nothing in this appointment which calls for censure or reproach.

IF THE discovery of the Microphone is a marvel of science, and a triumph for America, it is no less a triumph for India that its first elucidation in this country has been given in its infant Science Association by the learned founder of that body. On Tuesday last Dr. Sircar delivered a most interesting and instructive lecture on the Telephone and Microphone illustrated by experiments. We have before us a copy of the lecture, which we regret we cannot give *in extenso* for want of space, but we will transcribe some portions of it. Dr. Sircar gives the following description of the Telephone :

The telephone, as you will see from the specimen I pass round with the exaggerated diagram accompanying it, consist essentially of five parts : (1) a thin, circular disc of soft iron capable of rapid vibration under the influence either of sonorous vibrations of the air, or of constantly varying magnetic intensity of a magnet placed close to it ; (2) a rod of permanent magnet ; (3) a coil of copper wire encircling one of the poles of the magnet ; (4) a hollow cylinder of wood into which the magnet is passed, fitted and fixed ; and (5) a circular lid of wood, having a central circular opening, plane at one face and hollowed out on the other, which keeps the soft iron disc rigidly fixed to the cylinder of wood. The magnet is about 4 inches long, and $\frac{3}{8}$ths of an inch in diameter. The disc of iron is about 2$\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The pole of the magnet, which has the coil of wire surrounding it is turned towards the disc, the space between the face of the pole and the disc being very slight. There is also a slight space between the posterior plane face of the lid and the disc of iron. The circular opening in the lid is from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter. The extremities of the wire of the coil are connected with binding screws fixed at the posterior extremity of the instrument. In some instruments the portion of the magnet within the coil is replaced by a similar cylindrical, and necessary, very short piece of soft iron This is considered an advantage, inasmuch as the magnetism of the soft iron much more easily changes in intensity than the magnetism of a permanent magnet. A comparison of the results given by a number of instruments identical in other respects, but some having an entire magnet, and others a magnet with a peace of soft iron fixed to it, can alone decide as to the real advantage of one kind over the other.

Of the Microphone Dr. S ircar says :

The microphone essentially consists of a short piece of conductor, about an inch or so long, placed in an electric circuit so that one or both its extremities just touch either one or two small blocks of the same or either conducting material, connected with the extremities of the wire forming the circuit. This short piece of conductor, as being placed between two other pieces, or at least between one piece and the extremity of one of the wires, I call the intermediate piece. It is this intermediate piece which is the chief agent, under the influence of sonorous waves of air, or of vibrations of a sounding body, in modifying the strength of the electromotive force that passes through it from the battery with which it is in circuit. And consequently, if a telephone be any where in the circuit, it will reproduce any sound to which the microphone may be subjected either directly by a sounding body or indirectly through the air. The position of the intermediate piece best suited for the purpose has been found to be the vertical. I have found it immaterial whether the position of telephone in the circuit be between the positive or negative pole of the battery and the microphone, that is, whether the current passes first through the telephone or the microphone.

The intermediate piece is generally made of carbon,—ordinary charcoal, gas carbon, or graphite,—and the blocks are made of the same material. Prof. Hughes recommends the carbon to be tempered with mercury, as giving the best results. I have found as others have found also, that this treatment of the carbon is not at all necessary. In fact, I found, as you will see from several specimens on the table, that the components of the microphone may be made of any substance capable of conducting electricity. One I have made entirely of iron, with two common nails and an intermediate short piece of wire pointed at the extremities. The advantage of carbon is that its surface does not oxylize, and therefore its power remains unimpaired. Whereas with oxydizable metals, especially iron, the conducting power is soon lost on account of oxydation of the surfaces in contact. As you will see from one of the microphones made by Father Lafont, it is not essential that both the extremities of the intermediate piece should be in loose contract with blocks, one above and one below. But perhaps the results of such an arrangement are inferior to those of the ordinary one. It has appeared to me that if the pieces of the microphone are arranged in a box, with the front side open, as you will see from most of the specimens I have made, we have better results, than if they are arranged on a simple vertical board. I have spoken to such a microphone from the distance of 15 to 20 feet, and still the words were distinctly heard. I have spoken almost in whispers in close proximity to such a microphone and I was heard. I do not know whether the results of this evening will be as satisfactory, as they were in a great number of my previous experiments. For by the very fact of speaking often we destroy the nice adjustments of the instrument. The extreme sensitiveness of the instrument, and the difficulty of its adjustments are at present its great drawbacks. The instrument is yet in its infancy, and is capable of very great development and improvement before it arrives at maturity and perfection.

Could there be a nobler sight than this brotherhood of science ? An American makes the discovery, an Indian elucidates it to his countrymen. Such is the electric current of scientific knowledge—the microphonic application of the educated mind irrespective of country, color or creed !

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette.—*June* 26, 1878.

GENERAL.—Mr. H. Lee, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Durbhunga, officiated as Magistrate and Collector of that district from the forenoon of the 8th to the afternoon of the 24th May last.

Baboo Poolin Chunder Sandyal, Officiating Sub-Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st April last.

Baboo Anund Chunder Bose is appointed to act as Sub-Deputy Collector of Tipperah during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Poolin Chunder Sandyal, or until further orders.

Mr. C. C. Stevens, Magistrate and Collector, Nuddea, is allowed furlough for two years under Section 12 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may avail himself of it, together with subsidiary leave for twenty-one days under Section 24 (a) of the Code.

Mr. W. V. G. Tayler, Magistrate and Collector, Pubna, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Nuddea during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C.C. Stevens or until further orders.

Moulvi Moteeoollah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bogra, having resumed charge of his office on the forenoon of the 27th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 3rd idem is cancelled.

Colonel H. M. Boddam, Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebagh, is confirmed in the First Grade of Deputy Commissioners.

Baboo Lolit Mohun Chatterjee. Deputy Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong is allowed furlough for one year under Section 7, Supplement F. to the Civil Leave Code, with effect the date on which may avail himself of it.

The services of Baboo Bhuan Lal, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Shahabad, are placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of Patna for employment under the Durbhunga Raj, with effect from August 1876.

Baboo Ram Churn Lal, Sub-Deputy Collector, First Grade, is posted to Madhoobunnee, in Durbhunga.

Moulvi Moijuddin is appointed to act as Sub-Deputy Collector at Sewan, in Sarun, during the absence, on deputation of Baboo Shewnundun Lal, or until further orders.

POLICE.—Mr. H. Bayley, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hazareebagh, is transferred to Lohardugga and is posted to Palamow.

Mr. E. B. Baker, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 1st instant.

Baboo Nobo Kristo Ghose, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Hooghly, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. J. H. Warender-Clark, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Second Grade, Gya, is appointed to act in the First Grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police with effect from the 7th ultimo.

REGISTRATION.—Baboo Shama Churn Singha, Officiating Sub-Registrar of Jagutbullubpore, in Howrah, is appointed to be a Sub-Registrar of Nowabgunge, in the district of Maldah.

Baboo Raghunundun Sahai, Special Sub-Registrar, Patna, was on privilege leave from the 9th to the 18th April 1878.

EDUCATION.—Mr. J. W. McCrindle, Principal, Patna College, is allowed furlough for forty-two days, und Section 12, Chapter IV of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. G. Bellett, Officiating Inspector of Schools, Rajshahye Circle, is appointed to act temporarily as Principal of the Patna College during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. W. McCrindle, or until further orders.

Mr. F. T. Dowding, B.A., is appointed temporarily to the Fourth Class of the Bengal Educational Service, and is appointed to be a Professor in the Hooghly College.

In modification of the orders of the orders of the 21st May 1878, Mr. A. E. Gough Professor, Presidency College, is confirmed in the Third Class of the Bengal Educational Service with effect from the 23rd April 1878.

MEDICAL.—The services of Third Grade Assistant Surgeon Shib Chunder Bhattacharjee, now doing duty in the Presidency General Hospital, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

Assistant Surgeon Chunder Nath Biswas, attached to the Charitable Dispensary at Cutwa, in Burdwan is allowed leave for three months under Section 3, Supplement F. to the Civil Leave Code, in extension of that granted to him under orders dated the 20th February 1878.

Surgeon E. Lawrie, Resident Surgeon, Medical College Hospital, having resumed charge of his duties on the forenoon of the 11th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the six weeks' leave granted to him under orders of the 29th April last is cancelled.

Assistant Surgeon Benode Behary Dass, in medical charge of the Kurigram Sub-division, is allowed leave for one year under Section 9, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code.

Assistant Surgeon Deorga Dass Bhattacharjee, now doing duty in the Presidency General Hospital, is appointed to have medical charge of the Kurigram Sub-Division, Rungpore, during the absence, on leave, of Assistant Surgeon Benode Behary Dass, or until further orders.

The services of Assistant Surgeon Lall Bihary De are placed at the disposal of the Government of North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

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NOTICE.

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All those future Talooks called Auther Chokkun Guddue Heerut Chapsarah containing Mouzahs Auther Chowkun Guddue Heerut and Chapsarah in Pergunnah Chowmaha in the District of Hooghly in the Registration District of Hooghly and in the Registration Sub-District of Dhoneekhally Thannah, Dhoneekhally being Lot No. 46 in the Tanzal of the Collectorate of Hooghly subject to payment of Annual Jummah a revenue of rupees two thousand six hundred and fifty to Kallydass Banerjee, and Rajkristo Banerjee.

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General Court of Directors.

Right Hon'ble Lord Lawrence, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., & P.C., Chairman.

Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE

Sixty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company

Held at Edinburgh on Friday, 5th April 1878.

The Directors submit the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December last:—

Life Business.

During the year 1877 there have been issued 1026 Policies, assuring £1,003.580, the new Premiums on which amount to £32,049: 10: 5.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 10 Endowments, were 280 in number, arising under 341 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amount with Bonus additions, to the sum of £299,863: 10: 6.

As will be seen from the State of Affairs annexed, the Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,711,876:11:7, being £105,446: 17: 10 above what it was on 31st December 1876. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

After paying the Dividend, the Reserve Fund will amount to £794,576: 19: 11, and the Premium Reserve to £302,671, 8s. 5d., together amounting to £1,017,248: 8: 4. At 31st December 1876 these Funds amounted to £1,082,768: 11: 10, showing an increase this year of £14,479: 16: 6.

INDIAN BRANCH.
CHIEF OFFICE FOR INDIA.
1, HASTING STREET, CALCUTTA.

Local Board of Directors:

R. A. Lyall, Esq., (Lyal, Rennie & Co.), Merchant.
E. T. Roberts, Esq., Solicitor.
Robert Steel, Esq., Merchant.

General Agents: ROBERTS, MORGAN & CO.,
No. 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

TO LET.

Premises No. 5, Kristodas Pal's Lane.
Ditto „ 25, Ditto Ditto.
Ditto „ 13, Modhoo Roy's Lane.
Apply to *Printer*.

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DR. GHOSE'S
Oxygenine.

The long sought Specific Antidote for the most fatal poison of Asiatic CHOLERA.

When properly administered Oxygenine seldom fails to rescue 95 out of 100 cholera cases. That it is an infallible remedy for cholera patients, having blood still, is a fact established by more than one thousand trials.

Price per bottle, in tin case... Rs. 2 8
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Ask for a bottle with either English or Bengali pamphlet.

Sold, in Allahabad, by Messrs. Boucomb & Co.; in Calcutta, by Messrs. Smith Stanistreet &Co.; Messrs. Bonnerji & Co., Mirzapore Medical Hall, 26, Amherst Street; and in all other principal Medical Halls at Calcutta, Bhowanipore, Barahonagore and Dacca.

DR. GHOSE'S 'WATER PURIFIER' is also sold by the above medicine vendors. Price per bottle, capable of purifying about 64 native jugs of foulest water, is Re. 1, and per dozen Rs. 10.

NORTHERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

A number of Native Station Masters, Goods clerks and Morse signallers required on the Northern Bengal State Railway.

Apply with copies of certificates to Traffic Superintendent, Saidpur.

G. M. DRURY,
Traffic Superintendent.

Traffic Supdt.'s Office,
Saidpur, 7th June 1878.

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CHEMISTS DRUGGISTS & DENTISTS.

10 AND 11 ESPLANADE ROW, CALCUTTA.

Are in right of a consignment of the following.

MAGNETIC FEVER POWDERS
FOR FEVER DRINK,
DISCOVERED AND PREPARED BY
DR. W. BATCHELOUR,
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, 1835; *Member and Licentiate of the Ap, Company.* 1834 *Doctor of Medicine.*

FOR ALL KINDS OF FEVER IN ENGLAND & TROPICAL CLIMATES.

What is more refreshing to the Parched and Thirsty in Fever than Cold water? formerly pronounced by the medical profession to be highly dangerous. And what a boon to render water still more desirable? And this desideratum is to be gained by dissolving one of the Fever Powders in half-a-pint of cold water, and immediately a drink is ready, possessing the extraordinary properties of allaying thirst and moderating fever.

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In packets one rupee each.

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DR. W. BATCHELOUR,
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, 1835; *Member and Licentiate of Ap. Company,* 1834, *and Doctor of Medicine.*

All disease springs from the inadequate circulation of the nervous fluid and the blood. Nervous power depends upon the natural free movement of the fluid in and along the nervous chords. The digestive apparatus is invigorated and sustained by this valuable preparation; it replenishes the nerves which supply the stomach with nervous power, arising from want of vitality.

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Suitable for presentation to Students and successful Prize.winners.

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The "Star and Crown" Medal Rs. 16

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Each complete in morocco case.

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OR
PAINFUL MENSTRUATION (বাদক বেদনা)

A single administration during menses generally cures the disease and brings on conception."

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Specific in Cholera and other Spasmodic bowel complaints,
Price 1 oz. bottle ... Re. 1-4 Cash,
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FOR SALE.—The late residence of Mr. Seth A Apcar No. 6 Alipore. A fine two-storied house with extensive compound, out-offices and stablings. For particulars apply to.

MACKINTOSH BURN & Co.,
OR APCAR & Co.

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Printed and published by WOOMESH CHUNDER NUNDI. *at the* HINDOO PATRIOT PRESS, No 108, BARANUSY GHOSE'S STREET, CALCUTTA.